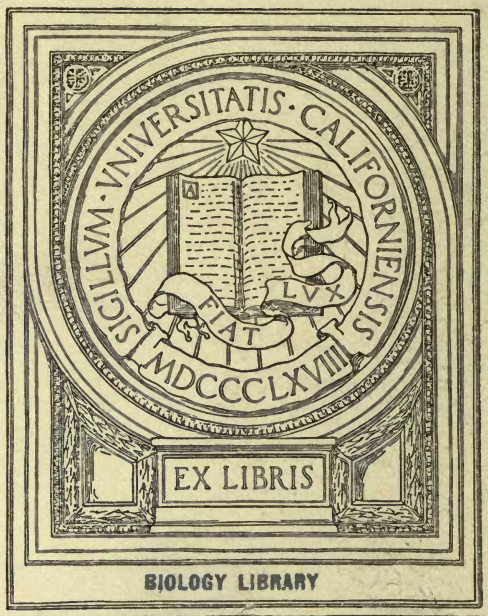
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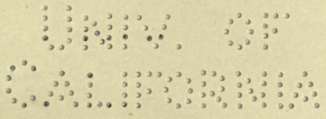
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Cages, Aviaries, and Exhibition

BY

SUMNER W. BIRCHLEY,

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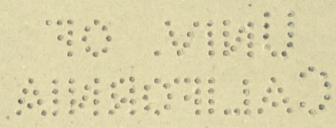


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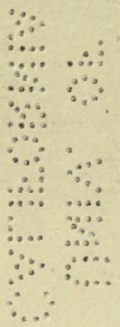
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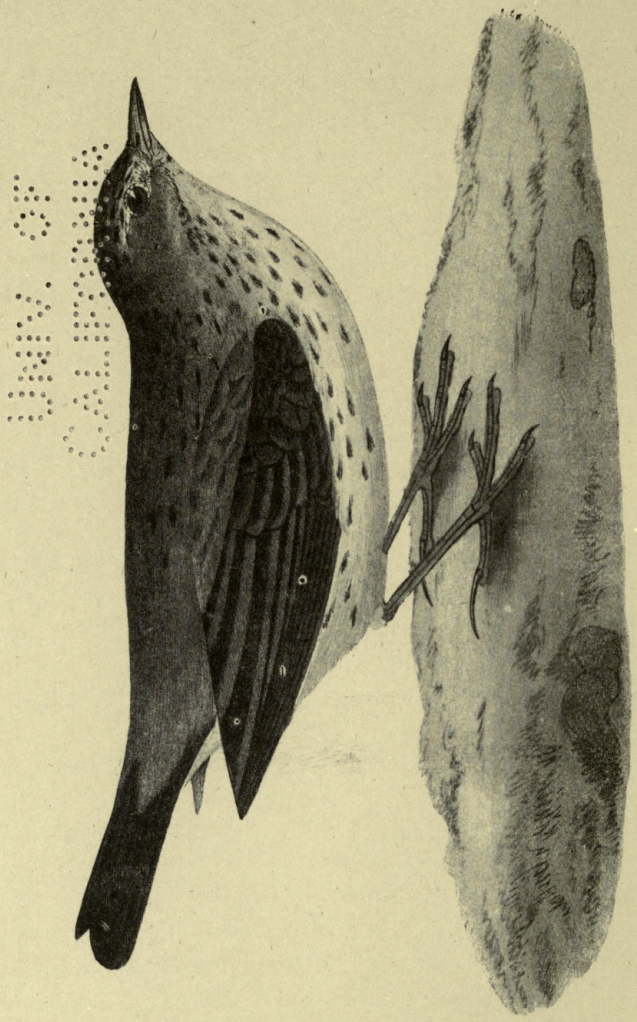
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Meadow Pipit

Anthus pratensis (Linnæus).



MEADOW PIPIT

Description of Parent Birds. Male: Length about six inches; crown of head, neck, and back dark brown, each feather edged with a light buffish tint; wings dirty black, the feathers being edged with light brown; tail dark brown, except the two outer feathers on each side, which are for the greater part white; throat buffish-white; sides of neck and breast pale buff, spotted with brown; belly and underparts dirty white.

The female is not so distinct in general markings and is slightly smaller in size to the practised eye.

Habitation. Generally common throughout these Islands, particularly in low-lying districts, and on grass land. I have seen them in very large numbers in Gloucestershire, Somerset, and Wilts in the fall of the year, on marshy and swampy grounds.

Nest and Eggs. The former is generally constructed under the cover of some small bush, or tuft of grass, particularly on low-lying meadows.

It is composed of dried grass, with an inner lining of wool or hair. Five eggs are generally the number of the clutch, of a greyish mottled brown colour, the markings apparently covering the whole of the ground colouration. Time: May, June, and July.

Countryside Notes. The Meadow Pipit, generally known to the public as the Titlark, is a most attractive

little chap at all times of the year, for in the Spring and Summer he is a most dutiful parent and companion to his little mate, running as he does here, there, and almost everywhere, where fresh food in the shape of insects are to be found, to satisfy the wants of those depending on him; always uttering his plaintive little cry, *tweet, tweet,* never seeming to lose interest or energy in satisfying so many hungry mouths, and yet with it all see him at close range with the glasses, even at this time of the year, he is a picture of cleanliness and health.

Then in the Autumn and Winter, when the responsibility of household cares is once more completed, you will see him in flocks with others of his kind, searching in the stubble of grain and root fields, also on meadow lands, for whatever he can find by way of food to keep body and soul together until the return of the warmer days, when insect life is plentiful.

Catching. I have caught this bird by means of clap nets and limed twig. Some ornithologists assert that this bird never perches, but I have caught several at a time by means of small twigs cut from the edge with cross piece, and liming the latter with some good stiff lime. Place some half dozen of these in a ground where the birds are in the habit of going, and by using great care you can drive them along the meadow and they will eventually make a mistake by alighting on the twigs. Of course the greater part of the Pipits we see to-day in cages are caught with the clap nets when in company with Linnets, they seem to be very sociable with these

birds, and I have frequently seen them flying overhead together, and have often wondered if the colouration of the two varieties had anything to do with this rather singular occurrence, being as they are, one an insectivorous bird, and the other strictly a seed eater.

Meteing off, Steadying, and General Feeding. This I cannot do better than recommend you that which is directed in the case of the Wagtail family.

Hand Rearing. If you desire to hand rear this bird, follow out the directions recommended for the Yellow Wagtail.

Exhibiting. Although hardly so large, and yet perhaps possessing a greater warmth of colouring than the Tree Pipit, this is a charming bird for the exhibition bench, if well staged, and a good specimen, he will generally be well to the front for honours under most of our leading judges who, like myself, seem to have a great weakness for the Wagtail and Pipit family.

For an exhibition specimen you require a bird of good rich brown colour, nice size, the markings on the back, head, wings and chest being distinct. Condition and steadiness are two items which must at all times have attention, likewise the caging of your exhibit.

Attractive Qualities. Like the Tree Pipit, to my mind he makes a most charming cage, or aviary bird, for he always appears most satisfied with his lot, never seeming to tire of the great daily likeness of his cage or surroundings, and in the Springtime, even if caged, will often

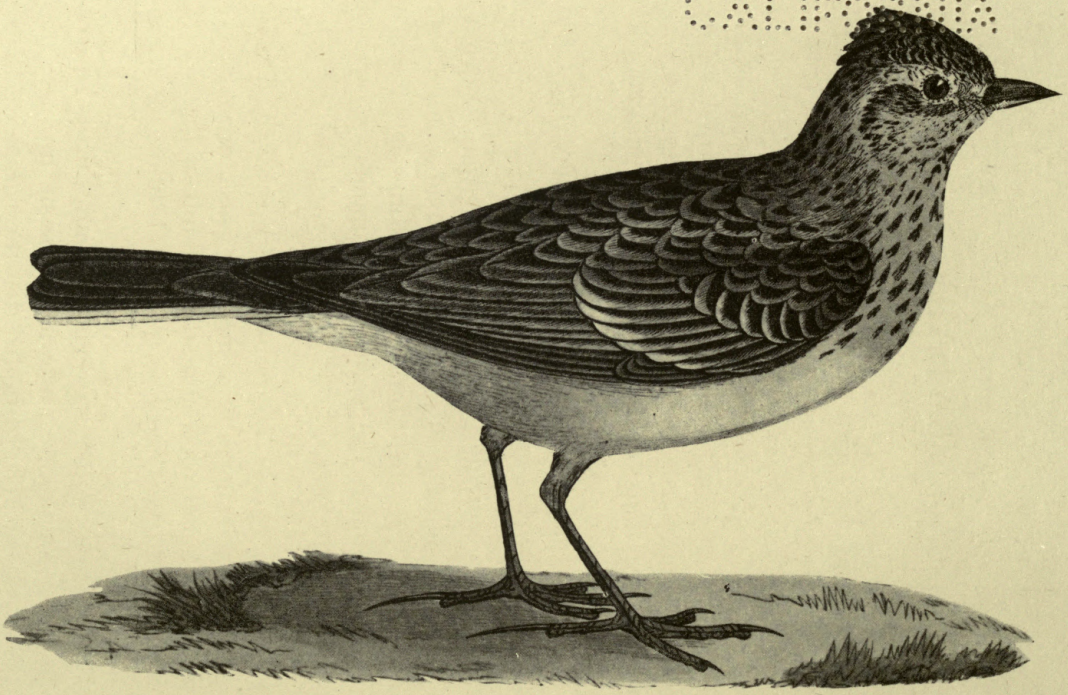
sing his most delightful little song, and he seems as proud of his vocal power, as you may be of him.

I had a pair once that nested in my aviary, and would I think have hatched the young, but for the fact that a couple of cats one night set up their "chorus" on the top of the aviary, and not only disturbed the female, but were the cause of the death of no less than five birds through fright, and the aviary next morning was a truly sorry spectacle: Swallows, Redstarts, Nightingale, Pipits, Wagtails, Wrens, Wryneck, and Wheatears, all more or less had their plumage greatly damaged, and not until the moult was over did they ever look the same.

Skylark

Alauda arvensis (Linnæus).

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SKYLARK

Description of Parent Birds. Male: Length about six and three-quarter inches; crown of head rich brown, the feathers being edged with a lighter shade; back of neck, back and wings chestnut-brown, each feather edged with a lighter shade; wing and tail quills dirty and underparts pale buff, the two former spotted with dark brown, flanks and thighs pale buff, tinged with brown.

Female is less brilliant in general colouring, and smaller in size.

Habitation. Generally found throughout Europe, frequenting fields and meadows, stubble ground, and arable land. In the Autumn and Winter it moves in small flocks, but in the Spring and Summer it seems to move about in pairs.

Nest and Eggs. The former, which is always placed on the ground, generally in mowing grass, or under the shelter of a small root of heather, or tuft of grass, consists of dried grass and fine roots, with lining of horse-hair.

Five eggs are laid of a greyish ground, thickly spotted with olive, and reddish-brown. In some instances the spots are so thickly distributed that they almost hide the whole of the ground colour. They then appear almost

olive-brown in colour with no markings. Such was the case with a nest I found at Bredon in Worcestershire. Time: May, June and July.

Countryside Notes. Just hark at that Skylark! How lovely he sings, is a sentence I have often used, and more often heard. Even the little school children seem to appreciate his sweet carolling. I have sat on stiles and gates for many hours in my time, particularly in the early Spring, when the sun is getting on its longer circuit and stronger in power, to listen to the wonderful lay of this sweet bird, and many times he has been quite lost to the naked eye and the song almost inaudible, when he has been towering away as if against the bright blue Heavens themselves, looking when once located like a minute speck and apparently motionless.

I have known him keep up at a great height, singing for over half an hour, and I think I am not far wrong in saying that he would not leave his heavenly abode even then if it were not for the fact that moisture to the throat is required, but in fairness to a fair bird it is only right to say that he keeps up his sweet lays and trills until he is within a few feet of Mother Earth. What makes me cling more to this fact is that if you watch a few moments you will often see the same bird mount the air again, soaring heavenward, just as before. The fact of his song is not his only good point, for to the farmer he is a great friend, for he is the cause of the destruction of millions of insects, say nothing of a large quantity of obnoxious seeds.

I consider it a thousand pities that such a great slaughter is wrought on these birds in the Winter time by the so-called sportsman who, when the hoar frost is on the ground, and the Larks are in small flocks he (the sportsman) seems to see great delight in their wholesale destruction, often leaving them on the ground. Where is the law? that such havoc amongst these sweet little minstrels is allowed to exist.

Catching. The Lark is caught by means of Drag nets. These consist of a long net some eight feet wide, which are used at night over grass lands and meadows, they are weighted heavily on the one side which if kept on the ground, while the other end is raised, and taken by two men, one at each corner, by this process, the whole of the Larks that are lying out in the ground, dragged by the nets, fall victims, and often other ground birds as well.

Meteing off, Steadying and General Feeding. Place your bird, or birds, in a long store cage with plenty of room, and linen or net top to it, to prevent them hurting their heads, supply plenty of clean water, and feed on equal parts of fresh hard-boiled egg (finely chopped or grated) and best ants' eggs (the latter should be soaked first for obvious reasons), adding now and again a little crushed hemp by way of a change, or even a little scraped raw beef, or crushed and scalded Melox. Throw in daily a few wild grass and other seeds as they seem to delight in picking this over, and it also keeps them interested for hours at a time, such seeds as mixed grass,

German rape, gold of pleasure, etc., etc., will all be appreciated. When your birds are well on food and steadied down, I advise you to transfer them to separate cages (with bow fronts desired), supplying every two days a nice clean turf about nine inches by six inches, which will be appreciated at all times.

Hand Rearing. A great deal of this is done to-day, and I think that hand-reared Larks are a delight to look upon, so steady and docile, and when in their nest feathers they look quite pretty. In hand-rearing, take your nest at nine days, and feed every two hours on the food described above, adding an occasional small green caterpillar if obtainable, not of course forgetting water, which is best given by means of a quill. Cover your charges up at night, as recommended in the case of the Nightingale.

Exhibiting. Personally I have never put a Skylark on the show bench, although I have had one or two very fine specimens, my reason being that unless it was at the Crystal Palace, or that I sent my birds up into Shields, Gateshead, or Newcastle-on-Tyne, I could not get a class, and of course they stand little chance in a mixed class of such birds as Wrynecks, Tree Creepers, Grey Wagtails, Nightingales, Shrikes, etc., but up in the districts I mention, our good friends make a deal of him as a pet, in fact, when at Gateshead Show once I was quite taken back at the beautiful specimens there put down, and the magnificent way the bulk of them were staged. A credit to their owners and to themselves.

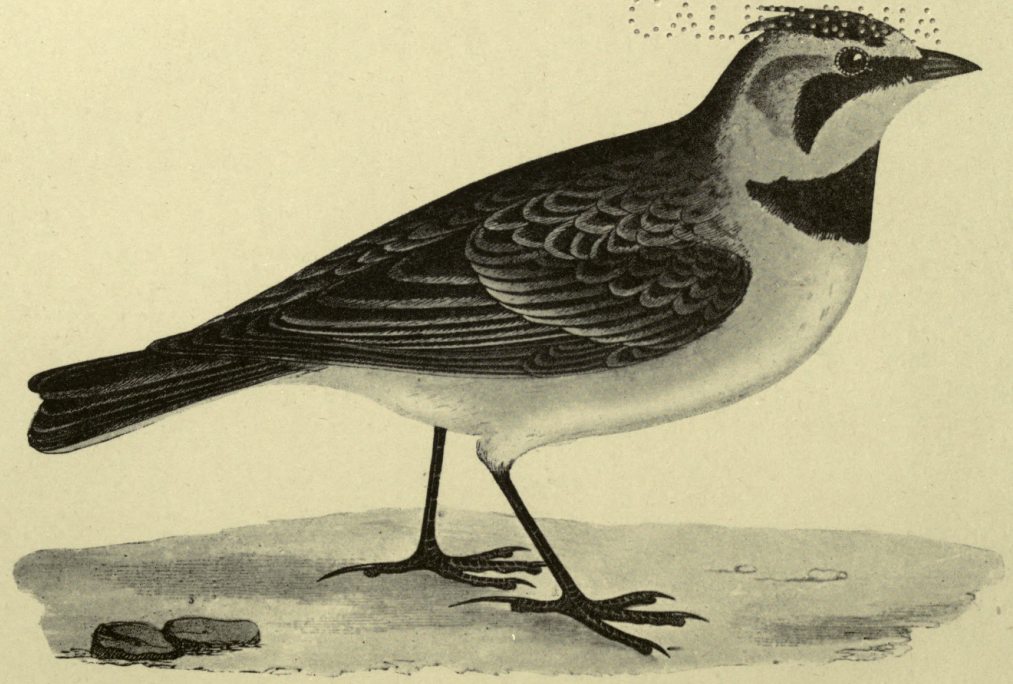
In an exhibition Skylark, steadiness is of course a great point. The crest on head should be of good size and fine action, the latter of course depends on the bodily condition of your bird. Size again is a great necessity. The chest should be bold and well marked; back, wings and neck should be evenly and distinctly laced; tail unfrayed; last, but by no means least, general condition must be of the highest possible order.

Attractive Qualities. A general great favourite, amongst rich and poor, high and low, for no man, woman, or child, that appreciates bird life at all, can but value this charming songster. Hear him in the meadows, soaring aloft, or hung outside the cottage in some small street, you are sure to hear his song, and no one can be but struck with the sweetness. I have kept them in aviaries and cages as well, and they always seemed to thrive, and caused me little or no trouble, but hours of pleasure, and no one was more sorry to part with a bird than I, the morning I packed my last male Lark to go on a journey of some one hundred and forty miles to his new home in the North.

Shorelark

Otocorys alpestris (Linnæus).

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SHORELARK

Description of Parent Birds. Male: Length about seven inches; forehead pale yellow; crown of head black, with four feathers running longitudinally, and projecting some eighth of an inch at the back of the head; nape of neck, back, wing, and tail coverts rich purplish-brown, edged with a lighter shade; lesser wing coverts dusky-brown, tipped and edged with cream; wing and tail quills dusky brown, the former are edged with white, and the two outer tail quills are nearly all white; sides of head and chin pale yellow, a black streak exists from the gape half way encircling the eye, then pointing sharply downwards; throat black, this extending downwards on either side from a point just below the throat, and round in line with the shoulder, and then across the breast; remainder of breast, belly, and under tail coverts buffish-white.

The female is smaller than the male, and not so brilliant in colouring, or so dense in general markings.

Habitation. This bird is not a regular Winter visitor to these Islands, but has been observed around the coast on various occasions, particularly the North of Scotland, West of Ireland, and the East Coast of England.

Nest and Eggs. As this bird does not breed in these Islands, this cannot be recorded.

Countryside Notes. Around the coasts, before indicated, this bird pays an occasional visit. Mr. Lowrne who has made many interesting observations of this bird, has I believe seen it many times on the Norfolk Coast, in fact I think I am not wrong in saying, he had a very fine specimen in his possession that was caught in that neighbourhood. Personally, I have only seen the bird once, and that was about five miles from Folkestone, and this one was apparently all alone, but seemed to be none the less enjoying himself, running here and there along the sand, constantly picking up bits of food that caught his eye. One singular thing I noticed , it seemed to be uttering a continual squeak-like noise the whole time, similar to that of the Pipits.

I believe it has been shot on many occasions, like most of our rarer visitors, for I have seen a specimen at nearly every museum I have visited, and in one there was a case containing four, three males and one female.

Catching. I have not had the opportunity of catching this bird myself, but I think there can be but one successful method, that is by means of the clap nets; possibly it may be induced to take a mealworm from one of the elliptical spring traps, but I query very much if you could secure one of these on the sand tracks that this bird inhabits, in fact I should think it a most difficult bird to catch, as lime could not well be used for two reasons; firstly, that he does not perch, and secondly, that invariably the feet would be damp, and prevent the lime taking effect.

Meteing off and Steadying. This bird is one of the most nervous you could possibly endeavour to steady down, for it seems to be for ever wild, do what you will, at least this has been my experience. I should recommend a gauze-fronted cage, some two feet long, with half a dozen perches fixed about two inches above the tray, and two inches apart for it to walk on; line the trays with fine sand, and provide a good dish of soft food, together with a small handful of rape seed, of which he seems very fond. I advise you to keep him in the living room, where daily domestic duties are going on, and three or four times during the day provide four or five mealworms, he will appreciate these given in this way, which greatly helps to obtain the desired effect. I have had three in my time, the one was quite steady at the time I bought it, but the other two, I could not master, until I adopted this plan.

General Feeding. Provide the same soft food as recommended to the Nighingale, adding to it a good sprinkling of German rape, and give at least a dozen mealworms per day, or as a change scalded gentles, wasp grub, or small caterpillars.

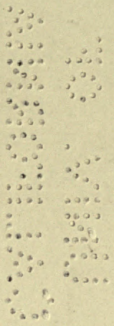
Hand Rearing. As this bird does not breed in these Islands, this cannot be accomplished.

Exhibiting. If you are fortunate enough to get a really good specimen of this bird, nice and steady, you can rest assured that you will hold your own in any Lark class. I have met with great success with the one used

for exhibition, and although I have seen many specimens, I never saw one so large, well marked, and steady, and previous to my having it, I believe it met with great success under its former owner's care, Mr. R. J. Howe.

In selecting an exhibition specimen, of course steadiness is at least half the battle. The chest should be bold; the black feathers projecting from the sides of the head should be distinct; the general colourings should be of the richest possible hue, particularly the yellow on the face, and the black on the chest and head.

Attractive Qualities. But for the fact that it is an interesting bird for exhibition purposes, although a tyrant, I cannot speak well of it as a cage or aviary bird, for as I have before stated, it is very hard to tame, has no song, and is not one of the most charming of birds to look upon, and not by any means a lady's pet.



Woodlark

Alauda arborea (Linnæus).



WOODLARK

Description of Parent Birds. Male: Length about six inches; bill straight, fairly strong, and medium length; crown of head light brown, streaked with a darker shade; nape of neck, back, and upper tail coverts chestnut-brown, streaked with a dark shade of the same colour; wing quills dusky-brown, edged with a lighter shade; tail quills brown, the outer ones being marked with white; a pale buff streak extends from the upper mandible, over the eye and ear coverts; throat, breast, belly, and vent pale buff, slightly tinged with chestnut-brown; the throat lightly and the breast rather heavily streaked and spotted with dark umber-brown.

Female: Similar to the male, but not so large.

Habitation. Generally plentiful in the lower half of England and Wales, but scarce in the North, inhabiting the skirts of woods, spinneys, and general pastures.

Nest and Eggs. The former is placed on the ground, generally under the cover of a clump of grass or heather. It is composed of a series of coarse and fine grasses, with a lining of moss and hair.

Five eggs is the general clutch, I have seen four, and once only three. They vary in colour in different localities, at least, this is my experience, for I have seen three nests in Wiltshire, containing eggs of a pale greenish-white, spotted and splashed with reddish-brown,

whereas two nests I saw in Hampshire, were a kind of a reddish-white, densely spotted with reddish-brown. In fact, if it were not for seeing the parent birds, I should have almost doubted the owner. Time: May, June, and July.

Countryside Notes. Undoubtedly one of the sweetest song birds that adorn our countryside, is the Woodlark, and although little known to many who study ornithology, I must say that he is a great favourite of mine.

There is perhaps some excuse for the bird now under discussion being little known, by reason of the fact that he is so like the Tree Pipit in dress and in flight; and yet like the Skylark in the former, although of course on close observation, it is clear that the eye streaks are far more apparent on this bird, and the tail is very much shorter than that of the Skylark.

I have heard him many times on the outlying sprays of nuts and beech trees, on a warm Summer evening, pouring forth his sweet song, which is perhaps not so powerful as that of the Skylark, yet equally as lovely to the ear.

See him as he starts off some favourite branch, to rise in the air, circle upon circle, until the normal height is reached, then to the ground in search of food, singing the whole of the time when on wing, with his crest well erect, and apparently in fighting attitude, for any foe that may approach.

As early as March, they seem to settle down in pairs to some favoured spot; there to build their nest and rear their two or three broods of young.

Flocking again once more when the Autumn sun and the chilly nights begin to fall around the Mother Earth, only to wait the brighter days of Spring.

Catching. I know no better way to snare this bird than that of the clap nets, or elliptical net trap, either of these set down at the side of some wood or copse, where these birds abound, with a good call bird in attendance, success will follow.

It is necessary to bait the latter with a mealworm or green caterpillar, I prefer the former, by reason of the fact that they are tougher in the skin, and invariably a bird is caught before is can secure its quarry.

Meteing off, Steadying, and General Feeding. You cannot do better, I think, than that which I have described for the Shorelark. I have had five in my possession one time and another, four were practically straight from the nets. They all survived, treated as directed, and did well.

Hand Rearing. Should you desire to hand rear a nest of these birds, you cannot, I think, do better than adopt the method set out for the Nightingale. I have only attempted to rear one nest of these birds, five in number. I saved three males, and one female, the other died, the day after taking, probably got hurt a little, or got cold.

Exhibiting. Very little have I seen this bird on the exhibition bench, in fact, I don't think I should be wrong

in saying I have only seen four the last three years, and one of those was at the Palace.

I do not consider it one of the most suitable birds for this purpose, as it has no attraction with it, like the Tree and Meadow Pipit have.

However, if you desire to purchase one for this purpose, get one as bold as possible on the chest, well and evenly marked; the back needs to be nice and even in all the variegations of browns, the eye streaks to be clear, and last, but not least, your bird must be steady and the tail unsoiled.

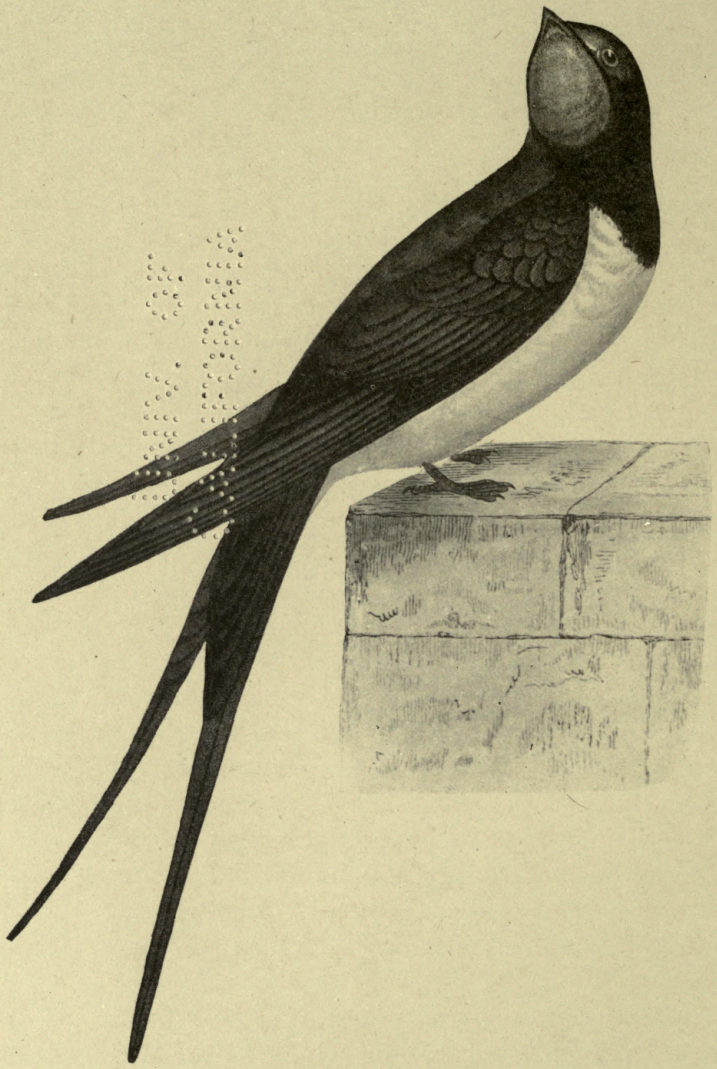
Attractive Qualities. As a songster, perhaps it is one of our very best. In my estimation, it is the fourth best we have, but unless it is hand reared, it never seems to get the quality of song when caged, as when wild by the woodside, enjoying a variety of insects and other food that go to make up his diet.

If you are fortunate enough to get hold of a good young hand reared male that is in fine health and feather, treat him kindly, and hang outside, where sunshine and air can reach him, he will not be long before he glorifies you with his wondrous song.

They do well in aviaries, throughout the Spring and Summer months, and also the Winter, if not too cold, plenty of shelter, and good nourishing food is provided, together with a plentiful supply of clean water for bathing and drinking purposes.

Swallow.

Hirundo rustica (Linnæus).



SWALLOW

Description of Parent Birds. Male: length about eight and half inches; bill short, fairly stiff and straight; forehead and throat rich copper brown; crown of head, nape, back and upper tail coverts steel blue; wings and tail quills dusky black; the two outer quills in the tail being the means of forming a fork; extending below the copper hue on the throat is a steel blue band; breast, belly, and under tail coverts white tinged with cinnamon brown.

Female: similar to male, but the colours are not so brilliant on the face and back.

Habitation. Generally common throughout these Islands during the Spring and Summer months.

Nest and eggs. The former is for the most part built on the beams carrying the roofs of barns, stabling, lofts, and other outhouses, where free access is obtainable. I have found it many times in lean-to cowsheds. It is composed of an external wall of mud and straw, with an inner lining of fine grass and feathers.

Five eggs is the general number to a clutch, of a creamish white ground, spotted with reddish brown and ashen grey, particularly on the larger end. Time: May, June and July.

Countryside Notes. Nearly everyone in the early Spring looks forward to the coming of the Swallow, as it is generally recognised as the harbinger of more genial

weather. Some years he is later than others, but often as early as the second week in April, when taking your country walk you will notice one or two flying overhead at great height, working up country to eventually settle down in its old breeding haunts.

These birds have wonderful homing instincts, and invariably they will return to a place to breed three or four seasons in succession. I knew of a pair that took up exactly the same position in a coal house for four consecutive seasons, each time rearing two broods of young. This is marvellous when you come to consider the thousands of miles they travel and the months they are away, yet they remembered the old spot again where they have whispered their " sweet nothings " to each other on the twigs of some neighbouring tree, eventually settling down, rearing their chicks, and later returning with them to a sunnier clime to spend the dreary days of Winter.

See him in the month of August, flitting over the meadows, turning almost every conceivable way in the air, all the time uttering his cheery little call note *tweet-tweet,* seeming to at all times be as happy and contented as the days are long.

Later, as the days of September begin to draw towards a close, and the early white frosts have enveloped the country, you can often see him with hundreds of others of his kind all huddled together on the roof of some countryside cottage, making the most of the early morning sun, and watching for others of their army to join them in their journey south.

Catching. This matter is very easily accomplished by finding a barn, stable or outhouse, where they visit; after dark entering the same and closing their entrance. Light a lamp, locate your birds and catch by means of a pair of night nets.

The former way I have found the best, although some prefer to take them in the meadows as they flit over the clap nets, which are best set for this purpose on high ground.

Meteing off, Steadying and General Feeding. I have found little or no difficulty in accomplishing either of these providing general care and a fairly long cage is used. They are by no means of a wild nature. If they fail to take the mealworms that you would place in a shallow tin or saucer, after having been caged six or seven hours, I advise you to take the bird in your left hand, open the bill by means of a tooth pick, keeping the inner side of the fourth finger against the bill to keep it open, insert a piece of mealworm or wasp-grub, and release the bill to allow the bird to swallow, repeat as many times as it will take the food, then give a few spots of water by means of a quill in the same manner, put the bird back in the cage and repeat again in a couple of hours if it still refuses to serve itself. Once doing this, I advise you to add a few soaked ants' eggs each day and gradually wean off on to a good insectivorous food giving mealworms, wasp-grub, gentles, etc., in a separate dish.

Hand Rearing. Take nest and all at nine or ten days,

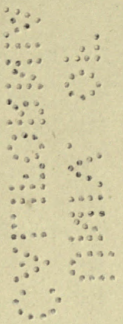
place in a basket, and feed every hour with precisely the same food as recommended for the hand rearing of the Nightingale, and your charges should do well. I have reared many in this way.

Exhibiting. Rarely indeed do we see representatives of these most handsome families exhibited at our shows, for what reason I cannot think. I am sure there is no bird more docile and beautiful in a cage than an adult Swallow, his steel-blue plumage always shining like silk itself, his long-forked tail and his pretty head and face, all go to make him a great favourite with me. I should much like to see the exhibiting of this bird, together with the House and Sand Martin, encouraged.

An exhibition specimen needs to be as large as possible with good broad face, long-forked tail, and the chest richly tinged with cinnamon brown.

Attractive Qualities. Many people I have heard remark: it is cruel to confine a Swallow in a cage, perhaps it may be from their point of view, as they have not seen one treated thus. Several ladies and gentlemen that saw mine would never have believed they would come to be so docile had they not have seen them. Personally I am particularly fond of them as a cage bird, for they are always most beautiful to look upon, and will often burst out into song when the sun is shining on their little box-like home. I have only had two die in my possession and always found them most healthy cage pets.

House Martin



Chelidon urbica (Linnæus).



HOUSE MARTIN

Description of Parent Birds. Male: Length about five and a half inches; bill short, fairly stiff, and straight; nape, back, and wing coverts dull black tinged with steel-blue; wing and tail quills dull black, the latter is forked, but not to the extent that the Swallow is; upper tail coverts pure white; chin, throat, breast, belly, and under tail coverts pure white; the legs and feet of this bird are covered with very minute white feathers.

Female: Similar to male in all respects.

Habitation. Generally well distributed throughout these Islands, particularly round the dwellings of man.

Nest and Eggs. The nest, which is placed under the heaves of houses, stables, and barns, in fact, it may be found attached to the underside of any overhanging roof, is a wonderful structure, being composed of small ball-like pieces of mud and clay, all laid one with the other, forming a nest very similar in shape to half a basin, the same being built quite close up at the top, while a small hole is left in the side for an entrance. For a lining, dried grass and feathers are used.

Four eggs are the general number, of a purple colour, free from spots or markings of any kind. Time: June, July, and August.

Countryside Notes. The House Martin is, without doubt, one of the most beautiful birds we have, for see

him when and where you will, he is always a most handsome bird, and the height of cleanliness, despite his delicate white attire.

It is indeed a pretty sight to see them round the duck-pond, obtaining mud, etc., to build their nests, their dear little white feet being most conspicuous as they patter along at the brink of the water, constantly pecking away, trying to secure a little more mortar for their future home.

After the nest is completed, as you pass by you will often see him with his head projecting from the aperture of the nest singing his sweet little song with the greatest of gusto, seeming to be quite proud of his little home and mate.

Later on, when the young are hatched, he flits hither and thither catching myriads of flies that infest the air, to satisfy the wants of his ever hungry chicks.

Many times have I seen a hard fight between the Sparrows and Martins for the occupation of one of these pretty nests, and often the poor little Martin gets the worst of the war, and has to give in to his far less useful, and more sombre coloured neighbour.

In September, these sweet birds begin to flock together, previous to their return journey to their Southern home, but after the main bodies have gone, we often see pairs still busy feeding their late broods of young, and not until these are well able to take the journey, do they attempt to go, for they invariably take their family with them at the close of their sojourn, in the British Isles.

Catching. I do not recommend the taking of the adult birds in this case, as they are far more fidgety on first being caged, than is the Swallow.

Meteing off and Steadying. This is is not necessary, as I advise hand rearing.

Hand Rearing and General Feeding. I have carried this out successfully, on many occasions, under the same directions mentioned in the case of the Swallow. The House Martin, having a complete tail at its first moult, makes it unnecessary to keep it any length of time to mature.

Exhibiting. I know it is seldom indeed that this sweet bird is placed on exhibition, probably some think it is difficult to keep, but I have not found it so. I have kept and reared many in my time, but have only exhibited them on two occasions, for at the time in question I had a large quantity of exhibition stock, hence they were kept back.

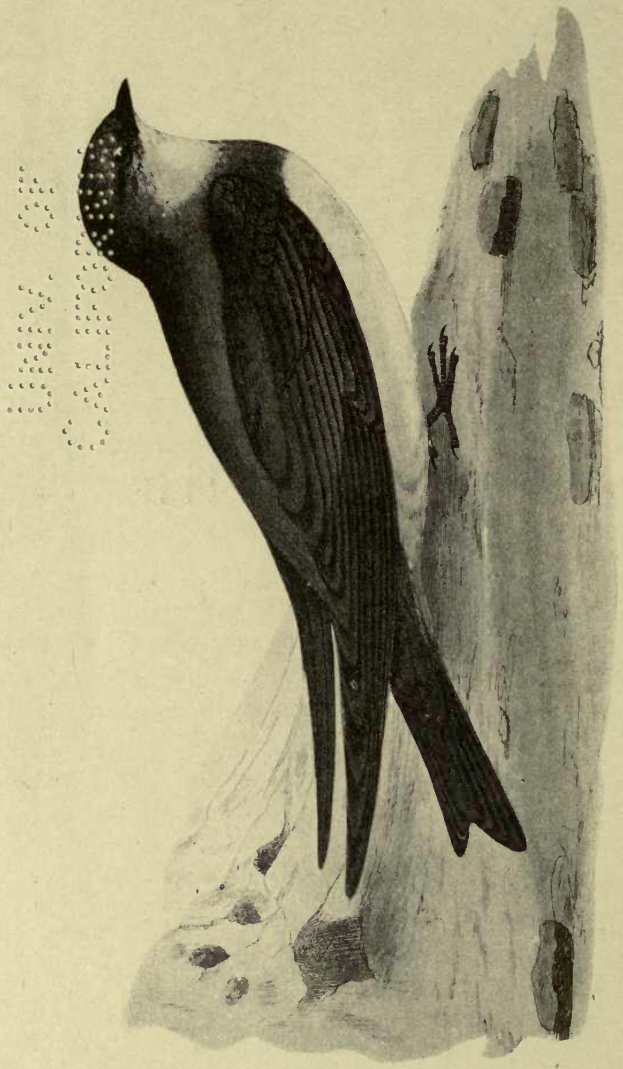
Size, steadiness, and purity of plumage, are the necessary qualifications to make a show bird, great care being taken to see that minute feathers of the legs and feet are not damaged or dirty.

Attractive Qualities. Beautiful in the extreme, is the least you can say of this sweet little muffed-legged migrant, for he has a sweet little song which he will often sing to you if hand reared, and what is more, if he is kept in a thoroughly clean cage, with proper care and attention given to the tray (which should be lined with sawdust), your charge will always be to you a delight to look upon, and a most docile little friend.



Sand Martin

Cotile riparia (Linnæus).



SAND MARTIN

Description of Parent Birds. Male: Length about four and three-quarter inches; bill short, straight and stiff; head, nape of neck, back, wing coverts, wing quills and tail mouse-coloured brown; a light brownish band extends across the breast; throat, breast, belly and under tail coverts white.

Female: very similar in all respects.

Habitation. Generally common throughout these Islands, in suitable localities.

Nest and Eggs. The former is built at the end of a tunnel, some two or three feet long, bored in the sandy banks at the sides of rivers, railway banks, sandpits, etc. At the end of this tunnel, a small chamber is formed, and the nesting materials, which consist of short straws, grass stems, and feathers, are deposited there in their usual rotation.

Four or five eggs are generally laid, of a faint pink colour, which are white when blown. Time: May, June and July.

Countryside Notes. Often as early as the latter end of March, you can see this funny little chap flitting about in the vicinity of his home that is to be. Like all others of the Swallow family he is particularly swift in flight, and it is difficult at times to follow his whereabouts, for one moment you see him here, the next he is gone, and

almost as quick as he disappeared he returns again, whirling round and round, then darting straight along, the next moment twisting about in the air, never seeming to tire from morning till night.

It is indeed an interesting sight in the month of May to stand in fairly close proximity of one of these sand-banks (there are sure to be some of these interesting little chaps there if the bank is anything like of large dimensions), see them pecking away, as if they had an axe to do it with, then as they begin to get further into the bank, they use their feet, as well as their bills, to remove the sand, and clear a roadway.

I have found these wonderful little workings quite three feet long, while some are quite short. When the eggs are hatched, and the young are able to take food from the parents, to watch, anyone would almost think that there was more than one pair of birds entering the tunnel, so frequent are the journeys made, and yet often until dusk does this continual feeding go on, and as soon as the peep o' day is come again, away they go to work again till evening fall.

Catching. As in the case of the House Martin, I do not recommend confining the adult birds to a cage, but hand rear the young.

Steadying and Meteing off. This of course is unnecessary under the circumstances.

Hand Rearing. Take at nine days, and carry out the instructions given in the case of the Swallow, and your birds will do well.

General Feeding. I have found the Sand Martin do remarkably well on the same diet as recommended for the Swallow, and I cannot advise you better.

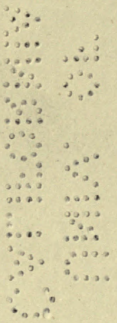
Exhibiting. This little mouse-like bird is perhaps not so handsome in attire as the Swallow and House-Martin, but he is none the less a most interesting little fellow, his little mouse-like head, short beak, and dull back, all help to make him look almost a novelty as a cage bird.

Mr. Castree, of South Wales, exhibited a little beauty some three seasons ago, and it was a great attraction to all who saw it. Being hand reared, it was delightfully tame, and a most interesting exhibit, and well deserved its place.

Size and colour, combined with steadiness and condition, are the chief factors that are necessary in an exhibition bird, the two latter are easily obtainable if you carry out as I suggest, and hand rear instead of taking adults.

Attractive Qualities. Like all others of the Swallow tribe (barring the Swift of course) the Sand Martin is a very desirable cage bird, if properly kept and fed. I have had three or four, and have always found them fairly healthy in confinement, yet I don't think they are so strong in the constitution as the House Martin and Swallow, perhaps I may be wrong, but this is my experience.

In place of sawdust for the cage bottom, use a good thick layer of sand, as I find they like to bathe in this in preference to water.



Tree Creeper

Certhia familiaris (Linnæus).



The property of Mr. C. T. Maxwell, Brixton, S.W.

TREE CREEPER

Description of Parent Birds. Male: length about five inches; bill long, very slender and curved; crown of head dark brown, streaked with buffish white. Nape of neck, back and rump warm chestnut brown, intermingled with grey; wing coverts brown, tipped with buffish-white; wing quills brown shading to black, and tipped with grey; tail quills lightish brown, very stiff, and pointed at the bottom end; a buffish streak extends from the upper mandible over the eye and ear coverts; chin, throat, breast and belly silvery white, tinged with brown towards the vent.

Female: very similar to male, hard to distinguish except by song.

Habitation. Generally common in all thickly wooded areas throughout these Islands, often to be found on the banks of rivers where pollards abound, this being a very favourite haunt of these birds particularly in the Spring and Summer months.

Nest and Eggs. The former is generally placed behind loose pieces of bark still hanging from the trees, particularly the pollard. I have known it on one occasion behind the loose stucco of a farm house; one in a hole in an old elm tree, and on two occasions lodged in between the ivy wood that surrounded a row of magnificent elms.

Materials employed are dried grass, decayed wood, and very fine twigs, with moss, wool or feathers used as lining. The number of eggs varies considerably. I have found as few as five and as many as nine, but for the most part I think six is the average number; they are of a whitish ground, spotted with purplish-brown spots, some are more heavily marked than others.

Countryside Notes. Often when passing the long rows of pollard trees by the sides of a river in the woodlands, you will notice this mouse-like little bird dart down to the bottom of the trunk of a tree not far in front of you, creeping by means of a series of jerks to the top in a zig-zag fashion, searching every crack and crevice for spiders or other insects that live there. Finishing that tree or perhaps because you have made too close an acquaintance of him, he flits off to the next and goes over the same routine. This continues during the whole life of the bird, from morn till eve, Winter and Summer, often singing his sweet yet faint little song for many minutes together. Watch him closely from some secluded spot, he will often stop, perhaps halfway up the trunk, to despatch some dainty morsel that has crossed his path, leaning for the most part on the strong and pointed quills of his tail. I have watched him many times when feeding operations are going on, and the countless journeys that are made by both himself and his little mate, in and out from behind the hanging bark where the nest is, carrying some form of insect life to their wee little offsprings every time they enter their curious nesting site.

Catching. This keen little bird is difficult indeed to make a captive. I have on two occasions caught him by means of the elliptical net trap, made purposely with very fine mesh netting, and secured close to the base of a pollard tree, and baited with very small mealworm, but you may make several attempts even in this way and not succeed, although he will annoy you by going quite close, and yet not close enough. I have on one occasion caught it by means of a piece of coarse string, well limed and fastened round the trunk of a pollard, but you have to be on him in the twinkling of an eye or he is off and gone again, being a most wary little customer to catch at all times when once out of the nest.

Meteing off, Steadying and General Feeding. Provide a cage lined with baize as described on another page, cover the front with gauze for a week or so and feed directly the same as recommended for the Gold crest and your bird should do well.

Hand Rearing. This is certainly a very delicate occupation, although I have succeeded in carrying it out. Take at ten days nest and all, and feed every hour with the food recommended for hand rearing " Gales," but with rather a larger quantity of the *very best* live ants eggs, well soaked, also frequently give a fly, spider or small green caterpillar, inserting the whole into the beak with the point of a match. Don't forget a little water served by means of a quill.

Gradually wean off as they grow older on to the adult food.

Exhibiting. I know no nicer little bird for exhibiting than this one, for he has such pretty ways; see him when you will he is either busily engaged in sorting over his food box, climbing over the baize or up in the top corner fast asleep like a ball of fluff. As to plumage he is by no means gaudy, but none the less he is quite a study of browns and buffs, with a breast of the purest silvery white. In selecting an exhibition specimen, get one as large as possible, of the richest brown on the back, distinctly and thickly laced with lightish shades of buff or creamy white. The breast should be broad and perfectly clear, the eye streak prominent and of good length. Polish and general high condition will naturally come, if properly treated and fed as directed herein.

Attractive Qualities. Ever blythe and lively in a cage if in sound health he is a most attractive little fellow, and the centre of admiration of all who look upon him. Often in the more genial days he will sing you his sweet yet perhaps faint little song. At eventide when he settles down in his corner to sleep his head is placed under his wing and you see and hear no more of him till morning.

Yes! I can recommend him to anyone who has time and means to look after his welfare and happiness.

Red-backed Shrike

Lanius collurio (Linnæus).



RED-BACKED SHRIKE

Description of Parent Birds. Male: Bill short, stiff, and straight; extending from the centre of the upper mandible through the eyes and behind the ear coverts is a black streak; crown of head and nape of neck bluish-grey; back and wing coverts bright chestnut-brown; wing quills dusky-black, edged with chestnut-brown; upper tail coverts purplish-grey; centre tail quills black, slightly tipped with white; outer ditto white on the upper half, black on the lower, and edged with white; throat grey; breast, belly, and underparts pale purplish-red; under tail coverts white.

Female: Similar to male in some respects, but colouring far less brilliant. The black eye streak is supplanted with one of buffish-white. The chest is barred crossways with a tinge of reddish-brown.

Habitation. Generally common throughout the whole of England, with the exception of the more northerly counties, where it is far more scarce, and seldom met with in Scotland or Ireland.

Nest and Eggs. The former is generally placed in the high thorn edges where briars abound, and on common land where hawthorn bushes are of good standing, consisting of the most part of slender twigs, dried grass, wool, and moss; sometimes lined with feathers, sometimes hair. Five eggs is the general clutch, which vary

greatly in colouration, from a pale creamish-white spotted and blotched with reddish-brown particularly round the larger end, to a very pale green spotted and marked with a similar colour to the former; they appear to vary in any shade between these extremes of colour. Time: May and June.

Countryside Notes. Often in the merry month of May, as you wander across the hillside in the Southern and Midland counties of England, you will hear the distinct croak-like call note of the Red-backed Shrike; and as you glance forward you cannot help but notice him, perched on the upper spray of an hawthorn bush close at hand. Probably just above him, or at his side, is his more sombrely clad lady. Let him rest, and visit the same spot a few weeks hence, and far in the midst of these thorns and prickly branches you will see the nest. It is most difficult to get at, without severely paying for your trouble, for first you scratch your hand and arm, then off goes your cap, and probably at the same time a thorn catches your cheek. More often than not you will give up the job, and leave a better and wiser man. I have had many a scratch and tear through trying to make closer acquaintance of Mr. Shrike's home and his eggs or chicks. Round about the counties of Gloster, Wilts, and Berks they seem to be be very plentiful. In a rough hedge surrounding a large meadow, I knew of no less than five nests of these birds, and when the grass was cut and laying on the ground to dry, I had many a good catch, not before in most cases having had a taste of their quality from their formidable bills, often fetching

blood, so great was their pinching power. He has certainly a very pretty little song, and in the early Summer while his mate is incubating her eggs, he will sit on the top of the bush or hedge and sing to her, to his own satisfaction and the pleasure of those who hear him.

Catching. Without doubt the best way to take this bird is by means of the elliptical net trap, baited with a mealworm. I have caught a great many in this way and not a few by means of the lime. I well remember one grand old male I tried hard to get with the trap but failed to do so, and I had no alternative than to fall back on the limed twig (much against my will). I removed a small branch that he was constantly using and replaced it with a limed one; the result was marvellous, for he was caught in an instant, but I am sorry to say he lost his tail in the melée.

Meteing off, Steadying, and General Feeding. Place your bird in a cage about 24 × 12 × 10 of a box pattern, with gauze front, and feed on a similar stock mixture to that recommended for the "Gale," with a good supply of mealworms, gentles, bumble bees, or wasp grub, not forgetting a caterpillar or two when obtainable.

You will at first have to give more insect food than is necessary later, gradually reduce to not less than twelve mealworms a day, which are necessary for its health and stamina.

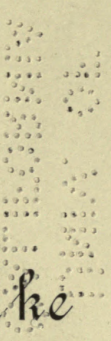
Hand Rearing. Take at nine days nest and all and treat as recommended in the case of the "Gale," with the

addition of a little beef juice and a few extra grubs per day.

Exhibiting. The Red-backed Shrike makes a first-class exhibition bird and should be far more in evidence at our shows than it is to-day. Taking him from all points, you cannot come but to one conclusion, viz., that he is a most handsome bird. I believe I am not wrong in saying that there have only been two or three exhibited this season.

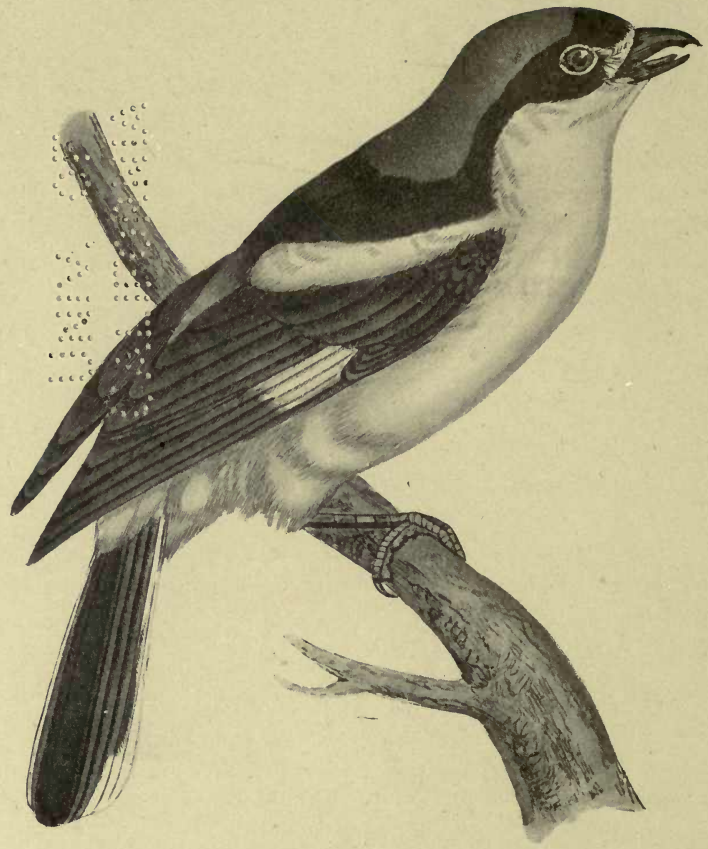
In selecting an exhibition specimen, get the largest bird possible, with prominent eye streak, the grey on the head and nape of good rich colour and bordering on blue; back of the brightest chestnut-brown, and chest as warm a shade as possible; withal steadiness and condition are two great factors that go to make an exhibition Red-backed Shrike.

Attractive Qualities. In this bird you have a really handsome pet, his variety of colours so beautifully blending, his intelligent eye, and swaying tail, all help to make him a general cage pet. I have had many, and always found them hardy to keep if properly provided for, often singing in the Springtime with the other occupants of my bird room.



Woodchat Shrike

Lanius pomeranus (Linnæus).



WOODCHAT SHRIKE

Description of Parent Birds. Male: Length about seven inches; bill short, stiff and straight; crown of head warm chestnut; nape of neck and back black; scapulars white; wing quills black; primaries white towards the base; secondaries and wing coverts edged and tipped with white; upper tail coverts pale grey; tail quills black, tipped with white; a black streak extends from the centre of the upper mandible, through the eye and ear coverts, to the sides of the neck; throat, breast, belly and vent greyish white.

Female: similar to male, but not so dense in general colouration, and tinged with rusty red.

Habitation. A very rare visitor to the Southern Counties of England, it being a migrant to Central Europe.

Nest and Eggs. Not breeding here, I shall not endeavour to deal with this.

Countryside Notes. Not having seen it in its wild state, I shall not attempt to describe it.

Catching. Should you ever have the good fortune to come across one, adopt the same method as recommended for the Red-backed variety, and success will follow.

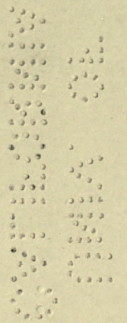
Meteing off, Steadying, and General Feeding. Adopt precisely the same method as recommended for the Red-backed variety.

Hand Rearing. Of course this is impossible if they don't breed in this country, but if by chance you do come across a nest, you cannot do better than adopt that which is recommended for the Red-backed Shrike.

Exhibiting. Rarely indeed is this bird exhibited, and I only hope that good fortune may rest with anyone who attempts to do so. I have not found them difficult by any means to keep in condition when once on food.

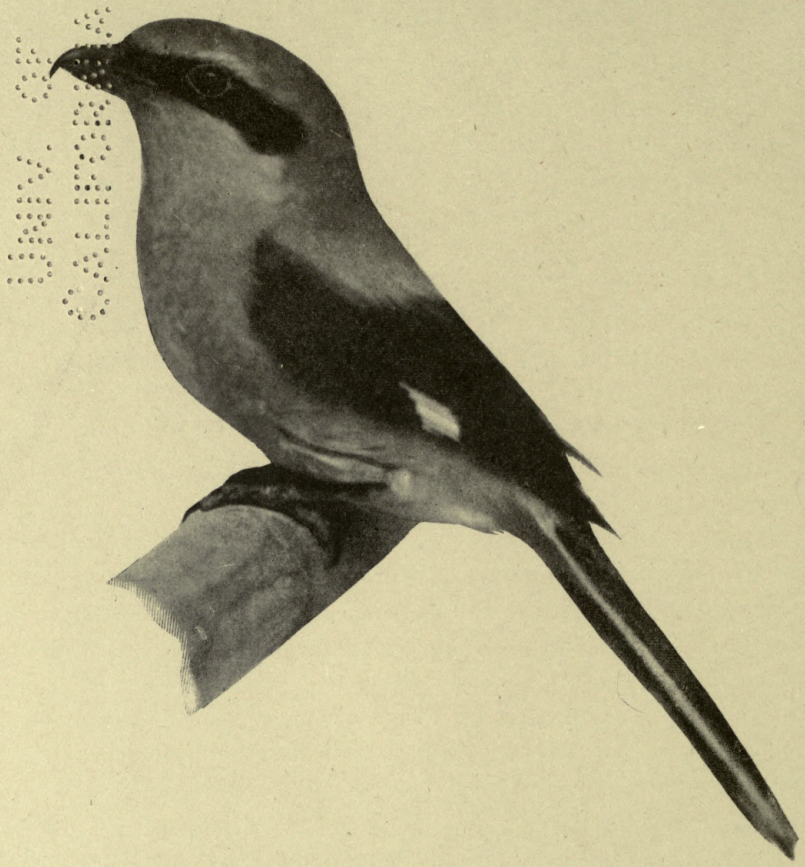
I think it is useless for me to describe an exhibition specimen, for such a thing as selection will not come your way I am afraid.

Attractive Qualities. Like the Red-backed Shrike, the Woodchat is, but for its dress, precisely the same in habits and life. You will not find him fastidious with his fare, but plenty of live food is necessary at all times. The one I had became exceedingly tame, and I should certainly have shown it but it was in soft moult when I had it, and although I tried every device to get it to grow its feathers correctly again, it failed to do so, and I despatched it out of its misery. If it had not been for that one great drawback he would have made a great name on the show bench this last season, and I can assure you he would have been almost priceless, for he was so affectionate at all times. I could do anything with him, he never attempted to pinch my fingers or fly away.



Great Grey Shrike

Lanius excubitor (Linnæus).



The property of Mr. R. J. Howe, Wellingborough.

GREAT GREY SHRIKE

Description of Parent Birds. Male: Length about nine and a half inches; bill medium length, strong, and straight; forehead white; crown of head, nape, back, and wing coverts pearl-grey; a black line extends from the gape, through the eye, and behind the ear coverts, the same being bordered with a faint white line; wing quills black, with white tips to the secondary and inner primaries; tail quills black in the centre with white tips, and edged with white on the outer sides; throat and chest pale grey, shading to white on the belly and vent.

Female: Similar to male, perhaps hardly so pure in colouration.

Habitation. Very rare visitor to these Islands, being a resident of Northern Europe, but occasionally a straggler settles down on our Northern and Eastern coast in the early Autumn.

Nest and Eggs. Not having been known to breed in this country, it is useless to go into this matter.

Countryside Notes. Being rarely seen in this country at all, and it not having fallen to my good fortune to see this bird in its wild state, I am unable to describe it, more than to say, that it is undoubtedly similar in all respects to its near relative the Red-backed Shrike.

Catching. What specimens do come here, are eagerly sought after by the catcher, and are taken for the most part by means of a large spring net trap, baited with a mealworm, or a naked mouse, either of these are equally effective, but the greatest difficulty is to locate your bird, the catching then is somewhat easy, if care is taken.

Meteing off and Steadying. Now this gentleman is a tiresome fellow to steady down, and great patience is necessary, to bring about the desired effect.

Place in a cage, at least 24 inches long, 30 inches is better, with two perches, fix, at least seven inches from either end; cover the front with a dark cloth, keep this so, for at least a fortnight, then gradually raise it about an inch each day until it is quite removed. You will undoubtedly, even then, find him anything but steady, and as you approach the cage, he will very quickly flit with spreaded tail from perch to perch, often plunging against the wire front. All these antics you must put up with, and all you can do each time, is to offer some tit-bit, and ultimately he will steady down, and almost listen for your coming to see him and bring him some dainty food.

As to his bill of fare, he will require a plentiful supply of animal food, such as mice and birds, plenty of gentles, mealworms, wasp grub, and beetles. Some will readily take to the ordinary soft food as supplied to the rarer soft bills, while others will not do. The first one I had would not look at it, while the other two readily accepted it as their staple diet, with an occasional sparrow or

mouse, and a few mealworms, gentles, beetles, or wasp grubs given each day.

Now, dear reader, I can only leave you to treat your bird according to his likes and dislikes.

I once heard a fancier say, that he gave his bird soft food, and nothing else, and if he didn't like that he could starve. This is all very well, but fancy yourself under the same conditions.

Hand Rearing. Of course this cannot be accomplished, as the bird does not breed in this country.

Exhibiting. This bird, if steady, makes a real deck-sweeper on the show bench, in the eyes of the majority of our judges to-day, while singular to relate, one or two seem to take a dislike to the bird and pass it, but thank Goodness, they are few and far between. There has been three very fine specimens knocking about this last show season, and I should much like to see them all meet at the forthcoming Palace show, to fight their battles between themselves. Unfortunately they have to compete in A.O.V. classes, and if they are all three competing, it is more than likely that only one is put in the money, however good the remainder may be.

In selecting an exhibition bird, get one as large as possible, with good bold head, prominent eye streak, and nice clear coloured breast, the black in the wings and tail, likewise the white, to be of the purest, and withal, steadiness and general condition are most important factors.

Attractive Qualities. By far the best of the Shrike family, the Great Grey Shrike is a most handsome bird, from all points of view, his pearl grey, black and white plumage, his intelligent eye, and exceedingly quick dart upon its prey, all help to make him a fascinating cage bird.

The first one I had, used to sing, but it was only very faint, it was a grand specimen, and as tame and docile as any Nightingale could possibly be. It would fly on my hand and take a mealworm, and was often let loose in the bird room for a fly, and he never seemed to worry the other occupants. A rather interesting item attached to this bird was the fact that one day I put a live Sparrow in with him, thinking he would settle him and make a meal at once; but no, he never attempted to hurt it, and for three days and nights they occupied the same cage, the Sparrow sharing his food, with the addition of a little seed I threw into him.

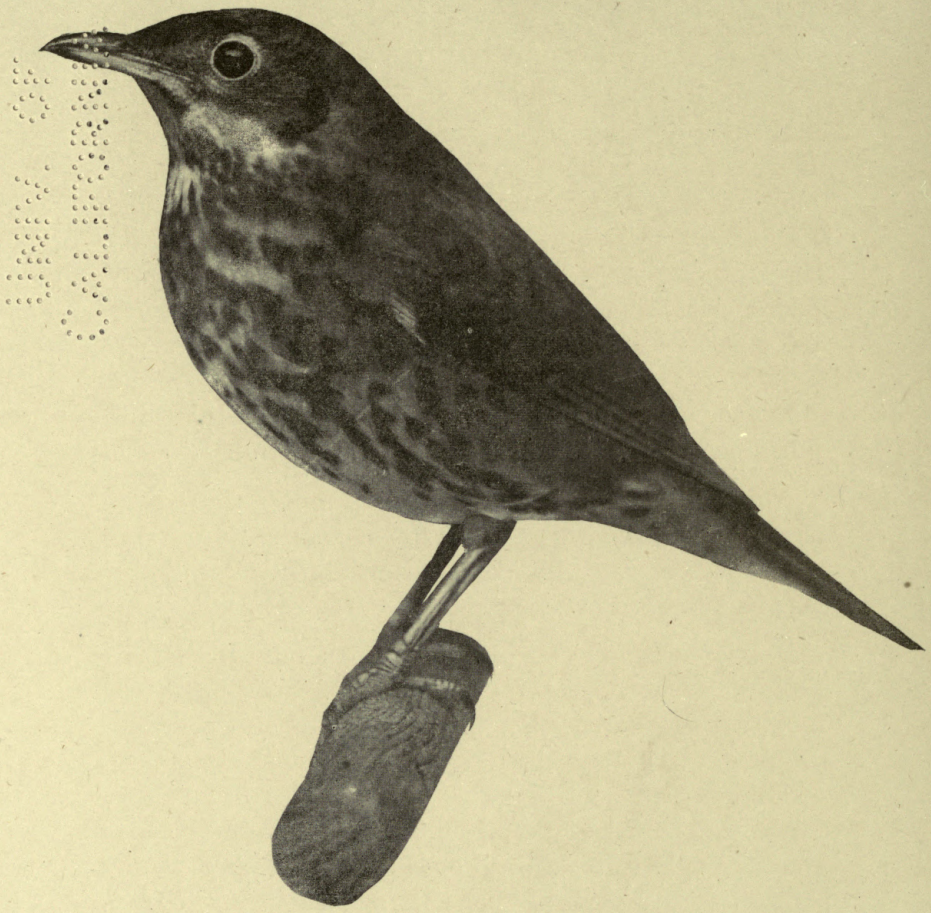
At last I caught the Sparrow and killed it, and Mr. Shrike was not long in pegging him on the nail that was driven through the perch near the wire front for that purpose, and quickly despatched it, and like Oliver Twist, he asked for more.

Now singular again is it to relate that this same bird, if I put a live mouse in the cage, he would pounce upon it instantly and kill it, even quicker than the cat I should think, but for why this should be, I could never tell.

I can thoroughly recommend this bird as an excellent cage bird, when once steadied and used to its food.

Song Thrush

Turdus musicus (Linnæus).



The property of Mr. R. J. Howe, Wellingborough.

SONG THRUSH

Description of Parent Birds. Male: Length about eight and a half inches, sometimes nine; bill straight, fairly long and strong; crown of head, nape of neck, back, wings, upper tail coverts, wing and tail quills light brown; cheeks pale buff, suffused with light brown; throat, breast, belly and under tail coverts creamy white, darker according to age; the throat, breast and sides being spotted or marked with dark brown, for the most part lying in rows.

Female: very similar to the male, and hard to distinguish perhaps a little heavier in breast markings.

Habitation. Generally common through the whole of the United Kingdom, to be found almost everywhere along our country side, coming near to the dwelling of man as Winter draws near.

Nest and Eggs. The former is generally placed in hedges, bushes, trees, or shrubs, but occasionally a somewhat curious position is taken up. It is generally composed wholly of dried grass and stems, and lined with mud.

Five eggs are the general number, of a bright bluish-green colour, spotted with black. I have seen them with scarcely any marking at all, and sometimes heavily covered. Time: all the Spring and Summer months.

Countryside Notes. In the early Spring days, often long before any other bird but our little Redbreast has

ventured to oblige us with his song, this handsome fellow pours forth his wondrous melody from some prominent limb of a tree where all passers-by can notice him. Head erect, throat pulsating with its utmost vigour, he carols away for all he is worth, particularly in the early evening, when the sun is going down. In the early Autumn, when the dew is thick on the outside world, you will find him busy on the elder and yew trees, enjoying the fruit in the early morning sunshine. I have seen as many as a dozen and fifteen on one tree, and from the mess they make on the ground below, one would think quite a regiment of birds had been there.

It is an interesting sight to see him in some country lane trying to get the better of a good big snail, hammering away on a stone with all his might to crack the shell, and obtain the occupant.

When the breeding season comes round he is a good and dutiful parent, attending most closely to his mate and young, continually searching the surrounding grass tracks and hedge rows for some unwary lob worm that has forgotten the time of day. Catching sight of it, he quickly makes a plunge, secures the head of the worm in his beak, a struggle for life ensues, the bird pulling one way, and the worm the other, but invariably our good friend gets the better of the fight, and away he goes to his little home, sharing the quarry among his chicks.

Catching. For the most part this bird is caught by means of the " bat " or night nets, which are used after dark in the early Autumn and Winter, with the aid of a lamp, and some one beating the other side of the hedge,

but it is an easy matter to secure it in your own garden if you live in the country, by means of a square wooden frame, covered with inch mesh wire, propped up with a stick, and the use of a pull cord. I caught the best I ever had in this way after having him under observation for some time previously.

Steadying, Meteing off and General Feeding. The steadying of this bird is a somewhat difficult matter, for if you put him in a 24 inch cage, he will beat about the wire front most terribly when you approach, so I advise you to partly cover the front, say three-parts of the way down with a dark cloth, so that when you pay him a visit he can hide himself, so to speak, on the perch. Leave the covering in this position for at least a fortnight, then each day gradually raise it a little higher until it is completely removed.

Feed at all times on a little barley meal, made crumbly moist with fresh milk, giving a snail or worm occasionally as a tit-bit. On this I have found my Thrushes do remarkably well, and keep in splendid polish and general condition.

Hand Rearing. Take at nine days, nest and all, and feed as directed above, with the addition of a little scraped raw beef, or cut up worms every hour, with water at intervals, by means of a quill. I have also found them relish a few garden worms, cut up and placed in their beaks.

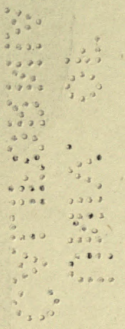
Exhibiting. As an exhibition bird, to my mind, he has nothing that will compare with him in the larger of

our British Birds that are shown to-day, providing of course that he is as he should be, polished from head to tail, and in the best of condition. I had one that had an artful system of singing when being judged, and it was, on more than one occasion, recorded in the papers. This bird was a grand one, and all that could be desired as a pet, for he would often burst into song when on the table, just before going to a show, and take not the slightest notice of my tying on the class labels, or filling his food vessel. He would fight my fingers with the utmost vigour, and many times when I have been in the aviary, where I always moulted him, he has settled on my head and shoulders, without any fear.

In selecting an exhibition Thrush, you need one of good size, rich back, nicely and evenly spotted chest extending well down on to the belly and along the flanks; see that the cheeks are nicely marked, and the feet not short of toe nails.

Attractive Qualities. I think this bird is without doubt one of the very few that are known to everybody, whether a lover of country side or not, for his ever cheerful song and his rapid hop, even in our gardens at home, one can but notice him.

I can recommend him as a cage bird with the greatest of confidence, providing a proper cage, frequently cleaned out, and the food recommended is provided. But some I have seen have been in a most sorry plight, wings, tail, and even breast all beragged and worn through the very neglected condition in which they have been kept, and how those people can expect song from such miserable atoms of bird life is hard to believe, and far harder to look upon.



Missel Thrush

Turdus viscivorus (Linnæus).



MISSEL THRUSH

Description of Parent Birds. Male: Length eleven inches; bill medium length, fairly strong, slightly curved; crown of head, nape of neck, back, and rump light ash-brown; wings of a darker shade; tail quills dark brown, the outer sides edged and tipped with greyish white; chin, throat, breast, and belly dirty white of a yellowish tinge, the throat and breast being marked with dark brown spots of a triangular shape, evenly distributed, extending to larger spots on the upper belly.

Female: Very similar to the male, but perhaps a little smaller.

Habitation. Generally well distributed throughout the United Kingdom, in orchards, plantations, woods, etc.

Nest and Eggs. The former is for the most part built in the forks of fruit trees, high up from the ground. It is composed of dried grass stems, slender twigs, moss, and wool, with a lining of finer grass, all securely cemented together with mud or clay.

Four eggs are the general clutch, of a greyish-green colour, blotched and spotted with reddish-brown, in fact, very similar to that of the Blackbird's, but for size. Time: March, April, May, June, and July.

Countryside Notes. Sometimes as early as the latter days of February, on going for a morning ramble, you

may see this beautiful bird, foraging in the fields and around ricks, gathering grass stems, etc., to build its nest. I, on one occasion, saw a completement of eggs as early as the middle of this treacherous month; and more often than not, through its great earnestness to bring the breeding season earlier, has to suffer greatly during the incubation from the inclemency of the weather, etc., but when the ground is frozen or covered with snow, our worthy friend has to resort to the various berries, such as hips and haws, until the fields have returned to their normal condition.

Always alert when in the feeding grounds, it is difficult indeed to get within easy distance of this bird, for instantly the slightest indication of approaching danger is heard or seen, the warning note is uttered, and away he goes to some neighbouring hawthorn bush or oak tree.

Sometimes hunger casts its mantle around our bird world well into the days of March, and sometimes as late as April.

Practically the whole of the Spring and Summer months the rearing of young is going on, and this, to my mind, is the cause of an old assertion that this bird stops his song, when the others begin. Of course if he is busy feeding his mate and young, he has no time to tarry on the bough and pour forth his lay, which is not altogether of a pleasing nature, but for the most part composed of a number of broken strains, uttered with defiance.

Often when the approach of a heavy storm is imminent

he will set up his call with great gusto, hence the reason of his " nick-name," the Stormcock.

After breeding operations are over, they appear to gather in small flocks of a dozen or twenty, and work in the fields and arable lands, in search of worms and snails.

Catching. I should consider the most practical way to take this bird would be by means of clap nets, set in the feeding grounds when snow bound, clearing the snow in the first instance, where the nets are to be laid.

I have seen many caught with other birds in this way, but have never seen any other method used.

Meteing off, Steadying, and General Feeding. In the steadying of this bird you have a great task, for he will sulk for days at a time, but when once accomplished he becomes most aimable, and is worth his keep.

Adopt the same method as that recommended for the Song Thrush, also the same food with the addition of a few berries, and an extra worm or two or even a snail when obtainable.

Give plenty of water for bathing, as I find him particularly fond of a morning bath, when the weather is favourable.

Hand Rearing. This is the method I much prefer to any, for the using of this bird to confinement.

Take at ten days, and feed in the same way as recommended for the Song Thrush, with a little extra animal food, and your bird will do well, for it is quite easy to

hand rear, being of somewhat a hardier constitution than the Song Thrush and Blackbird.

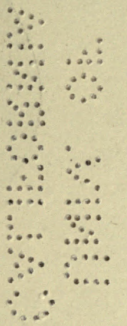
Exhibiting. The Missel Thrush makes a first-class exhibition bird, but unfortunately it is rarely seen on our show bench. I saw a very fine specimen in the North of England this show season, in fact, the largest and best I have seen for many a day, but having to compete with rarer species on most occasions, it did not get its deserts, by way of awards.

In selecting an exhibition specimen, get one as large as possible, of a good sound colour in head, back, and wings; the tail quills being distinctly marked with grey; the throat and chest well and evenly spotted with defined triangle-shaped spots. Steadiness is, of course, a great virtue, and withal general condition must be good.

Attractive Qualities. A large handsome bird, of great docility, after once accustomed to cage life, is I think the best way to size up the Missel Thrush.

Often in the dead of winter, when most of our caged pets are silent, he will rattle away his song to the best of his ability, and with the greatest of determination and defiance.

Some ornithologists say that the song is of an entertaining nature, but for my own part I call it passable only, being as it is, very broken in delivery, and rather harsh in tone.



Blackbird

Turdus merula (Linnæus).



BLACKBIRD

Description of Parent Birds. Male: Length about eleven inches; bill fairly strong, medium length and straight; the whole of the body is of a deep polished black.

Female: Similar in size and shape to male but of a brownish-black on the back and wings, and of a rusty black tint on chest.

Habitation. Generally common throughout these Islands along thick hedgerows and the skirts of woods.

Nest and Eggs. The former is placed for the most part in thorn bushes and hedges, sometimes on edges of rock, and at the forks of fruit trees. It is composed of dried grass and roots, small twigs and moss, lightly cemented together with clay or mud.

Five eggs are laid of a greenish-blue, heavily mottled with a lighter shade and blotched with yellowish-brown. Time: the whole of the Spring and Summer months.

Countryside Notes. Like the Thrush this jet-feathered bird is well-known to everyone, ornithologists or otherwise.

See him in the country fields and lanes as you come within the range of his dusky eye, how he hurriedly hops along a few yards, and then with rapid flight darts over the hedgerow, uttering his most striking warning note as he goes.

In the Spring and Summer, often as you sally forth into the country fields for a refresher, when the sun has gone down and even the stars are faintly showing themselves, in yonder hedge where briars and thorns of the thickest are entwined, you hear his evening chatter as he continually utters his *Chink, chink, chink,* which is kept up sometimes to long after dark. Then once again portray him when you are resting by a gate or stile, when the ground is covered with snow, over the hedge comes his jet black form, the snow fairly flying where he alights, with tail erect and wings dropped he notifies his presence with a deep *tack, tack, tack.*

Wonderful indeed is it how he keeps his plumage in such grand condition, for see him when he is almost casting his old clothes for new it is hard to notice that he is requiring a change, but like the Thrush he is a champion for bathing and often visits the neighbouring duck pond Winter and Summer.

Catching. You cannot do better than take this bird as I have mentioned in the case of the Thrush.

Meteing off, Steadying and General Feeding. I have found the method recommended for the Thrush answer well, although I am not an advocate altogether of taking this bird wild.

Hand Rearing. Here again I refer you to the Thrush, for being, as they are, identical in living the one treatment serves the two.

Exhibiting. The Blackbird is certainly a most charming bird for exhibiting, and if a good one can

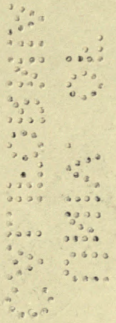
often hold its own against all comers. They are somewhat difficult to get a good colour in the bill and eye cere unless colour-feeding is resorted to.

Shape and density of the black, which must be highly polished, together with bill and eye cere of the deepest orange colour, go to make what is needed in an exhibition Blackbird.

Attractive Qualities. When once used to cage life, he is a lovely songster and quite a companion, for if hung outside in the more genial days of Spring and Summer, he will often be singing his wondrous and flute-like song. I have often thought he stands a real good third to the Nightingale and Blackcap, but owing to its being a totally different tone perhaps it is difficult to judge.

I had four at one time in an aviary together, and often three of them, perched on different twigs of brushwood against the wall, were piping away after having a good feed and a rest, and so tame were they that often their song did not cease when I put in appearance at the front of the aviary.

Ring Ouzel



Turdus torquatus (Linnæus).



RING OUZEL

Description of Parent Birds. Male: Length about eleven inches; bill straight, medium length and strong; head, neck, back, wings, rump and tail quills black, slightly tinged on the outer edge of the feathers with brownish-grey; the outer edge of the wing quills are greyish-white; chin, throat, breast, belly and under tail coverts black, slightly tinged with brown and edged with grey; extending across the breast is a broadish crescent-shaped mark of white bordered with a tinge of chestnut-brown.

Female: Has not the purity of body colour as the male, being browned altogether, and the crescent on the breast is not nearly so well defined.

Habitation. This beautiful bird is very local in its habits, and seldom is it seen in the Midland, Southern and Western Counties of England, but principally on the moors and hills of Wales, Scotland and Ireland.

Nest and Eggs. The former for the most part is built on the ledges of rock, sometimes in walls of old buildings or under an overhanging turf securely hidden from view wherever possible. It is composed of very fine twigs, dried grass, and moss, loosely laid together and of little or no cuplike formation.

The eggs are of a creamish ground heavily spotted and blotched with reddish-brown, more or less over the

whole surface, while others only on the larger end. Three eggs are about the number that go to make a complete clutch. Time: May, June and July.

Countryside Notes. Away on the hill and mountain side, often far from the general abode of man, is the home of the Ring Ouzel and his mate. I have met him on several occasions in North Wales, where in some localities he seems to be somewhat plentiful.

When as you ramble and climb up the steeper crags, on a fine Spring or Summer morning, wafted by the gentle wind comes the peculiar croak-like note of the Ring Ouzel; as you glance upwards, you catch sight of him on the edge of a rock or some gorse clump sunning himself and pruning his feathers. How beautiful his plumage looks and how prominent the beautiful white crescent on his breast.

As you go forward and get nearer to him, he again utters his call note, and away he flits with his mate probably in close pursuit, who till then had been hid from view by the gorse, where she had been bathing herself in the sunshine while his lordship had been keeping guard. I have met him on the Cotswolds in Gloucestershire, on three occasions and found the nest there twice, and from one of the latter I secured a chick but unfortunately it turned out a hen.

See him whenever you may, like his near relatives the Thrush and Blackbird, he is always a study of neatness and cleanliness, and a beautiful adornment to our lonely hill and mountain crags.

Catching. There is no better way I think than the use of a fairly large elliptical net trap, baited with a mealworm, set close to the spot where the bird has most often been seen. I have only tried this method on one occasion, and it was singularly successful, for I had my bird in less than half an hour.

Meteing off, Steadying and General Feeding. The way I adopted in the above mentioned instance was identical to that which I recommended for the Thrush, Blackbird and Starling, for he is of practically the same behaviour when first caged as they are, viz., wild and relentless, but when once steadied and moulted, he is a graceful bird and hardy to keep if ordinary care is used in feeding him.

Hand Rearing. The same applies to this bird as to the Thrush.

Exhibiting. As an exhibition bird there is no question that the one now under review is all that can be desired, but is far too seldom seen in confinement. Mr. Burrows of Stratford-on-Avon, some two years ago, exhibited most successfully the best specimen I have had the pleasure of seeing, it was a real gem all over, and fully deserved the awards that were given him. Always as tight as wax, a model of cleanliness, and as steady as Old Time, a truly beautiful bird of a beautiful family.

In selecting an exhibition specimen (if you ever get the chance) select the largest and best-shaped bird, having a good bold chest with distinct crescent, and the

feathers of the darker portion nicely edged with greyish-brown. It needs to show plenty of white on the outer-webs of the wing quills, withal well polished and as steady as possible.

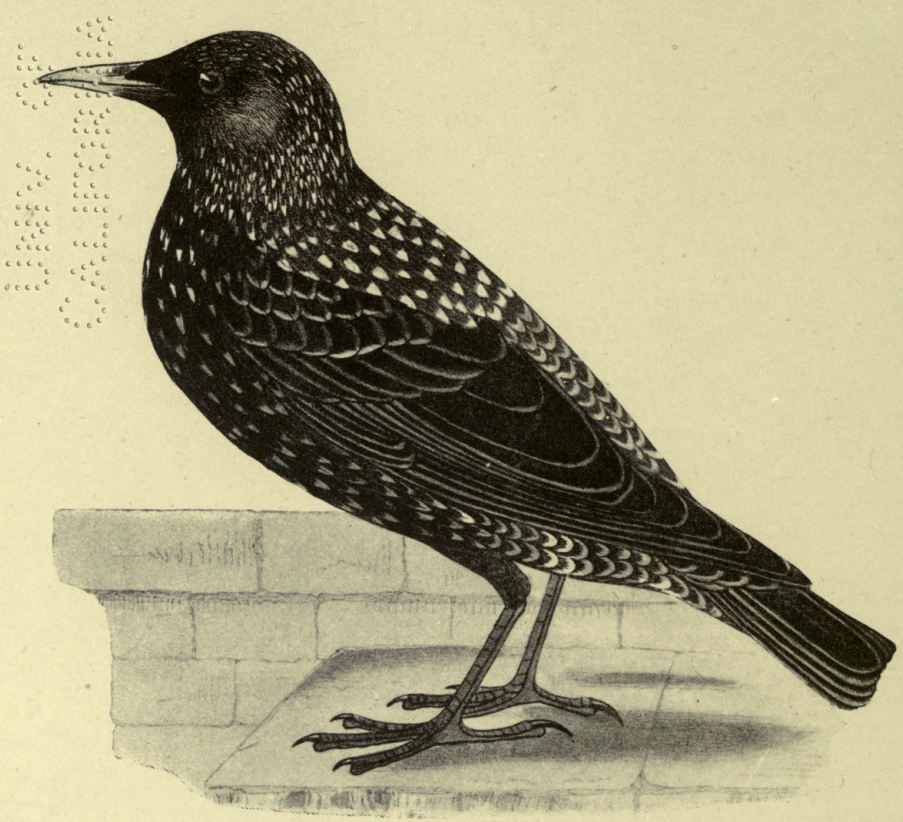
Attractive Qualities. When once you have got him to take to cage life he is full of attraction, although his song is one of not particularly musical nature, it is no means unpleasant.

I have found him fairly easy to cater for and keep in good health, often appreciating a few table scraps that may be offered in the shape of pudding, cheese or cake.

Take him all the way round he makes a capital cage bird, and one that you will be loathe to part with when once you have fully made his acquaintance and gained his confidence.

Starling

Sturnus vulgaris (Linnæus).



STARLING

Description of Parent Birds. Male: Bill medium length, fairly strong, and straight; the whole of the head, neck, breast, back, belly, and rump are black, with a strange metallic sheen, particularly on the head, neck, and back, the feathers being tipped with silvery white on the head, neck, back, and breast; upper tail coverts black, edged with buff; wing and tail quills dusky-brown, edged on the outer web with buff.

Female: Very similar to male, hard to distinguish, perhaps the plumage is hardly so heavily cast with metallic sheen.

Habitation. Generally common throughout these Islands, moving about in flocks in the Autumn and Winter and in pairs in the early Spring and Summer, inhabiting nearly every part of the countryside.

Nest and Eggs. Some ornithologists say that we have two distinct varieties of this bird, and I am rather persuaded to believe it, they for the most part select either the hole in a tree or under the thatch or slates of a dwelling house. These two positions are distinctly different, and even the birds themselves seem to denote, for where some appear to get the whole of their livelihood round the dwellings of man, others get it in the meadows, orchards, and open country.

An old farm labourer once told me there were two kinds of "Starks" (Starlings), the tree and the house

"Stark," this old chap had undoubted reason for making this statement for what I myself have seen of this bird round the countryside.

The nest consists of roots, hay, straw, feathers, and down, in fact, almost everything. I have known pieces of paper, rag, cotton wool, string, and on more than one occasion light cardboard. These irregular materials being for the most part found in the nest of the House Starling.

Five eggs are the general number, of a light blue colour, varying in shade and size occasionally.

Countryside Notes. On the chimney pot of any suburban town, in either Spring or Summer, you can often see this beautiful bird, with crest erect, throat expanded, and flapping his wings, calling his mate or trying to make himself heard.

He is a good friend to the farmer, for myriads of grubs and insects are devoured, year by year, by this bird. Perhaps he is a pilferer when the cherries get ripe, and he has often to pay the full penalty at the cost of his life.

It is a pleasant sight to watch them collecting in the evening of an autumn day, this is for the most part done by flying and constantly calling the while, over the meadows and pastures, where the others were dropped on their outward journey in the early morning. As the original flock pass overhead, those on the ground below, or perhaps in the trees waiting, take to their wings and by a series of circles the two lots unite. This goes on and on over many miles of country, until practically the

whole are collected, and then in one huge flock, often consisting of thousands, they make for their usual night abode in some coppice, plantation, or withy bed.

He is a great comfort to the suffering sheep, for in the Summer, when "ticks" and maggots are often lurking in their long fleecy jackets and worrying our woolly friend to all eternity, the Starling comes as a reliever, settling straight away on their backs, he will often watch and search for hours for these insects and grubs. The sheep taking not the least notice, but rather feeling relieved to think that he is ridding him of his torments and at the same time feeding himself.

Catching. This bird is caught in large numbers by means of the clap nets, set in the meadow grounds in the late Autumn and Winter. They are attracted to the spot by means of decoys, and large numbers are often taken at one pull of the line.

It is also taken by means of night nets and lamp round the plantations in which it roosts. I have known great hauls taken in this way in the osier or withy beds that abound on the Severn banks in the neighbourhood of Gloucester.

Of course these are not taken with a view to selling them for cage life, but for a purpose of shooting.

I believe the market price is about eightpence per dozen.

Meteing off, Steadying, and General Feeding. When first put in a cage, he is a most tiresome fellow, for sometimes he will stick in the corner and sulk, while another,

he will beat himself about most unmercifully, rushing at the cage bars with all his power, endeavouring to make good his escape. I had a real beauty (in fact, I don't think I should be wrong in saying it was the best I ever had), that did actually manage to break away the punch bar front and get out of his cage, but he got no further than into the room, and a rare job I had to catch him again. I advise you to keep the front of the cage well covered, at least three parts down, with a dark cloth, and let it remain so for at least three weeks, at the end of that time gradually raise it each day until it is entirely removed.

If you can once gain his confidence he will go on alright and make a most interesting pet.

Feed on barley meal and milk made crumbly moist with an occasional tit-bit, say a few mealworms, earth ditto, a nice little slug, or even a caterpillar.

If you find that he does not take his food, I have found by cutting up a few earthworms and mixing with it, will often induce him to start, when once taking it nicely gradually reduce the worms, till none are given only by themselves once in a way.

Hand Rearing. Should you desire to hand rear this bird, take at nine days and feed every hour on the food recommended for the adult, with a few small earthworms or a little very finely scraped raw beef added. I have found them do grandly on this. Don't forget water, given three or four times a day by means of a quill.

Exhibiting. The Starling makes a very nice and interesting bird for exhibition. Some real beauties have

been exhibited during the last few years, particularly at our larger shows, where suitable classification is given.

I do not advise any one to exhibit it in the A.O.V. large class, as it stands little or no chance against the rarer varieties it would have to compete against under this classification.

In selecting a show specimen, shape, of course, is a great item, likewise size, but the most important of all is perhaps the spots, on the upper and lower part of the body, particularly the latter; these should be distinct and stand well out, and in no part should they be matted together, which is often the case on the lower belly and behind the legs; the brown on the outer webs of the wing quills should be of a nice warm colour, and the whole of the body highly polished with a rich metallic sheen.

Attractive Qualities. When once tamed down he is truly a most interesting bird, ever artful, alert, and ready to say good-bye to you should opportunity come his way.

The one I speak of earlier in this subject was a masterpiece for cheek and tricks. If by chance he had no water, he would keep pecking away at his drinker until he threw it to the ground, and when his food drawer was empty, he would push it out of the slot with his beak and try to escape through the aperture. He had a most novel idea of endeavouring to get away, viz., by inserting his long beak between the lower bar of the door and the bottom rail of the cage; having done this, he would open his beak and so push the door up, and out he would go. I never could make out how he did this,

till I watched him at it. I then adopted a plan of tying down the door with a piece of string, this he could not let alone, and if he could get at the bow he would keep at it till he untied it and get out again. At last one morning I missed him when feeding the birds, I moved every cage, crate, box, etc., but to no avail, and it was clear to me he had at last made good his escape. I endeavoured to find out how he got out of the bird house and solved the mystery, as there could be no other way. He had fled hard against the wire door, that was kept fairly stiff from opening by means of a spring, this had got a little weak, and evidently his lordship had continually plunged against this till he had carried out his desires. About a week after I saw him on a large willow tree that hung over his late prison, looking as cheeky as ever. He would often feed on the food I put for him, but catch him again I couldn't, he was far too fly.

Redwing

Turdus iliacus (Linnæus).



REDWING

Description of Parent Birds. Male: Length about nine and half inches; bill medium length, straight and fairly long; crown of head, nape, back, rump, upper tail coverts and tail quills uniform olive brown; wing quills dusky on the inner web and olive-brown on the outer; a light streak extends from the base of the upper mandible over the eye and ear coverts, cheeks dark-brown; throat, breast, belly and under tail coverts buffish-white, the two former streaked with dark brown, and extending to the flanks; under the wing butts reddish-chestnut, which extends and shows itself prominently on the outer side; hence its name.

Female: Similar to male but not so bright in general colourings throughout.

Habitation. Migratory, arriving here in October and leaving in the early Spring for the North of Europe, where it breeds.

Nest and Eggs. Not breeding in these Islands I cannot give it.

Countryside Notes. After the last of our Spring and Summer migrants have left us and the country is cast in the gloom of Autumn and Winter, there comes from the Northern parts of Europe our sweet winter migrant the Redwing.

Often when on a ramble in the country, when the

snow and hoar frost have wrapped their mantles around Mother Earth, I have seen this poor bird, sat on some prominent stem of a blackthorn bush well nigh starved to death by the continued hard weather, all that could be seen apart from the snow clad country was the distant haze-like blackness on the far-off horizon (a sure predictor of more snow), the trees themselves still holding their fleecy whiteness, and the only cheering colour that adorns the landscape is the berry of the dog rose or hawthorn. As you walk towards the spot where he is perched, perhaps in company with others of his kind, he does not seem to have the power to lift his wings in flight unless compelled to do so, simply uttering his warning note to others that may be in the vicinity.

Many times have I picked up the dead bodies of these lovely birds, often frozen in the snow, and no doubt death was brought on by sheer starvation. But thank Goodness such hard times for the poor birds does not come every winter, and often he has not to suffer before it is time for him to depart for his northern home, to join in the building of a nest with his mate, rear their young and increase their numbers.

Catching. If the weather is fairly mild, the best way by far is the use of the night nets, round the wild and uncut hedges. I have had some capital catches in this way, and have had other birds at the same time. I have never adopted any other principle, but I dare say they could be taken by means of the clap nets placed in the open fields.

Meteing off, Steadying and General Feeding. The information given in the case of the Thrush will suit this bird admirably, with the addition of a few hip or hawthorn berries in season.

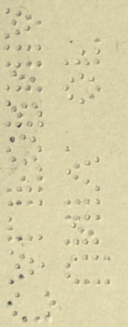
Hand Rearing. Not breeding here this cannot be done.

Exhibiting. Though very rarely seen at our shows the Redwing is none the less a beautiful bird, why it is not kept more in captivity I cannot think.

Certainly one or two very fine specimens have been exhibited this last year, but not nearly so often seen as it is worthy of.

In selecting a show specimen, get one as large as possible, good sound body colour, well and distinctly marked on chest and throat, plenty of reddish-chestnut on the sides near the wing butts, and lastly of good cobby shape and condition.

Attractive Qualities. Like the Fieldfare the Redwing is a great favourite of mine, and I have kept several in cages and aviary, one time and another. I certainly found some of them a trouble when the days of migration arrived, but it soon seemed to go off and they would settle down quiet again. Take him all the way round he is a capital cage pet and as hardy as any of the *turdus* family.



Fieldfare

Turdus pilaris (Linnæus).



FIELDFARE

Description of Parent Birds. Male: Length about eleven and half inches; bill medium length, straight and fairly strong; crown of head and nape of neck slatey blue, slightly spotted with brown; back scapulars and wing coverts reddish-brown, the latter tinged with a lighter shade; rump and upper tail coverts grey; tail and wing quills dusky brown; a light streak extends from the base of the beak over the eye and ear coverts; chin and throat pale cinnamon, streaked and marked with brown at sides; chest grey, tinged with cinnamon-brown, and marked with deep brown; breast, belly and under tail coverts whitish, the former being marked on the sides; the whole of the throat and breast markings are a distinct crescent shape and turned upwards.

Female: Similar to male, but is lacking the cinnamon on the breast and general brightness of back and head colourings.

Habitation. Migratory, arriving from the North in October and staying till early in April and sometimes till May. Generally common throughout these Islands, moving about in flocks in all our country side.

Nest and Eggs. Not breeding in this country I cannot deal with this.

Countryside Notes. When the days of chill October are ushered in, is the time to expect to see flocks of these

beautiful and thrush-like birds flying over our heads, on their journey southwards, to spend the winter and help to replace thousands of sweet warblers that have left this Country after rearing their nests of young.

I have seen them many times in company with Redwings and Thrushes, and even the Missel Thrush in the harder days of Winter, when the plough, left in the furrow the night before, is quite unmovable by the hand of man, through the severity of the frost. It is then that these poor creatures find the pinch of the terrible cold, but let the thermometer drop below zero they have to make the best of it.

But our handsome friend is perhaps more fortunate than some of his near relatives, for as a rule the hedges at this time of the year abound with hawberries, and on these he can live without apparent suffering, but such delicacies as worms, slugs, etc., he has to abandon till the fields are sufficiently soft to allow them to appear on the surface.

As the early evenings draw near, you may, by standing in the vicinity of a wood or copse, see small flocks of these Winter visitors coming from all directions with rapid flight to take up their positions in the top of the trees till daylight comes again, making a continual chattering noise till all is quiet and settled down, while others remain on the ground and in hedges.

Catching. There is no question to my mind that the best way to secure this bird is by means of the clap nets, set out in the meadows and feeding grounds, use a call

bird of the same species to entice them and also one or two decoys if available.

There is no doubt but what an occasional one or two are caught by means of the night nets, in the same way that the Blackbird and Thrush are taken.

Meteing off, Steadying and General Feeding. With the addition of a few hip and hawberries each day your bird will do well if treated in exactly the same way as described for the Thrush.

Hand Rearing. This of course cannot be done owing to the bird not breeding here.

Exhibiting. There is no doubt but what the Fieldfare makes a most beautiful exhibition bird, but is far too seldom seen on our show benches to-day.

A most beautiful specimen has been freely exhibited by Mr. H. Chick of Nottingham, and this bird to my mind is the best I have ever seen staged, being of grand size and shape, wonderful colour and markings, truly a "topper," and long may he live to be a most beautiful specimen of a beautiful family.

In selecting an exhibition Fieldfare, get the largest bird you can with good bold chest, well mooned and of good rich colour, the bluish-grey on the head, neck and rump as bright as possible, the eye streak distinct and of fine definition.

Attractive Qualities. Like most of our larger birds the Fieldfare is of somewhat a restless nature when first caged, but if carefully attended to and discretion used, he soon settles down, and seems quite content in his little wooden home. He has only a faint little song, in fact surprisingly faint, for so large a bird. Let his song be what it may, the varieties of his colouring make him a most beautiful addition to any bird room.

Chough

Pyrrhocorax graculus (Linnæus).

CHOUGH

Description of Parent Birds. Male: Length about sixteen inches; bill slightly curved, stiff, and rather long; the whole of the plumage is a beautiful blue-black throughout.

Female: Similar to male, but hardly so large.

Habitation. Very sparingly distributed in the Counties of Devon and Cornwall, generally on the cliffs, that abound the coast line.

Nest and Eggs. The former is generally placed in fissures of sea cliffs, holes of old ruins, and in caves.

It is composed of sticks and twigs, coarse and finer grass and wool.

Five eggs are the general number, of a creamy white, lightly spotted with pale brown and ash grey. Time: May and June.

Countryside Notes. This magnificent bird, by far the most beautiful and graceful of the Crow family to which it belongs, is fast becoming extinct, and it is quite time that it was severely protected, to allow it to increase its numbers, and beautify the Counties in which it makes its home.

It is indeed a most pleasing sight on a bright summer morning, when round the coast of Devonshire in a steamer, to see these birds flying along the headland that abuts the ever restless sea. They seem to fly through the air with the greatest of ease, and as if they

were as light as a cork, their glorious black plumage shining most beautifully in the sunlight, as they twist in the air when about to alight. There was a pair for three Summers, to my knowledge, that built in the rocks, just between Lynton and Ilfracombe, and when I was at the former place I tried hard to find the nest, but was not successful, although I saw the parent birds on several occasions.

I believe these are more to be found on the coast of Devonshire and Lundy Island, than in Cornwall, although the bird takes its name from the latter place.

Catching. I should strongly advise hand rearing in preference to catching adults, as I question very much if you would get your bird sufficiently steady, say nothing of the difficulty in obtaining the adult.

Steadying and Meteing off. I do not advise the taking of the adult birds, but hand rear the young, and your bird is certain then to be docile and tame.

Hand Rearing. Take at nine days, place in a warm room, and feed every hour on a mixture of scalded Melox and a little scraped raw beef, and part of a yolk of hard boiled egg. Squeeze all the water possible from the Melox, so as not to make the food too sloppy. Gradually reduce the egg each day until you have removed it altogether. Of course you will need to supply an occasional worm or snail cut up.

For a stock food use two parts scalded Melox, rinsed as dry as possible, half part fresh ants' eggs, and half

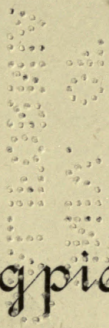
part cooked ox heart or beef, with the usual tit-bits of insect, and grub-like life, such as beetles, cockroaches, mealworms, large caterpillars, garden worms, slugs, etc.

Exhibiting. In the Cornish Chough, we have a perfect exhibition bird from all points of view, but perhaps from the fact, being rather a big chap, he requires a large cage, hence if he is to be sent about the country, the Railway Co.'s get the benefit of your weakness for the Chough. None the more for that, if a good specimen, he can hold his own against all comers, and, generally speaking, the first and special cards adorn his cage.

In an exhibition specimen you require great size, the whole of the body carrying the greatest possible amount of metallic sheen, and the legs and bill of as deep a red as possible.

Attractive Qualities. As a cage bird, if a hand reared specimen, and a suitable cage is found to accommodate him, the Cornish Chough is at all times a most interesting and beautiful bird, for he is not admired by a few individuals only, but by everyone that sees him.

A doctor friend of mine has had one that runs loose in the garden, week in, week out, and perches at night up under the ivy; he (the doctor) tells me he is often hard at it searching for worms and slugs in the early morning, and in the Springtime, when the seedlings are coming through, his handy work is far too destructive to find favour in the eyes of his owner, and consequently Mr. Chough gets into hot water and has to be shut in the woodhouse for a time.



Magpie

Pica rustica (Scopoli).



The property of Mr. C. T. Maxwell, Brixton, S.W.

MAGPIE

Description of Parent Birds. Male: Length about eighteen inches; bill fairly long, straight, and stiff; head, neck, back, wing and tail quills black, tinged with steel-blue, shading to purple and green, according to position they are looked at from; the scapulars are white, and primaries white on the inner web; chin, throat, and upper chest black; lower chest, belly, and sides white; under tail coverts black.

Female: Similar in all respects to the male, though hardly so large, and the black is not so brilliant as that of the male.

Habitation. Generally common throughout these Islands, in woods, and brakes, and other thickly-wooded localities.

Nest and Eggs. The former is domed, and is generally placed in a tree or bush, sometimes in thick hedges, at various heights. I have known it as low as seven feet from the ground and as high as forty feet. It is composed of dried twigs, thorns, and brambles, interwoven together, sometimes with the help of clay or mud, and lined with coarse grass or roots. It is on the whole a fairly substantial structure, plenty of material being used in its formation.

The number of eggs to a clutch vary considerably. I have found as few as six, and as many as ten, the latter

I found in a nest built in a thorn hedge in the West of England. They are of a greenish-blue colour, tinged all over with a faint brown, spotted and blotched with light and dark brown. Time: March, April, May and June.

Countryside Notes. When on a railway journey through the wooded districts of our countryside, or when on a walk over the rougher and uncultivated districts, you will often observe this magnificent bird either alighting or just taking flight. It is certainly a sight that is not easily forgotten, for, let him be in either of these attitudes, he can but command attention, for his long tail and his body of the purest of white and black are most conspicuous.

I have met him in nearly every quarter I have been, often chattering away on my approaching his whereabouts, and taking instantly to a lofty branch, spreading his tail on alighting.

One thing that is greatly against this bird, and also the Jay, is the fact that they are often destructive to very young game, chickens, ducks, etc., and even the nestlings of the various birds along our country hedges, and trees often fall a prey to satisfy his greedy wants, he apparently not being satisfied with the worm, slug, mouse, beetle, etc., and for this the farmer and keeper often make him pay the full penalty when he comes within the reach of the gun. If it were not for that, they would undoubtedy be far more numerous to-day than they are, and make a most beautiful adornment to our countryside and woods.

Catching. I have never attempted, or have I heard of anyone attempting, to catch the adult Magpie; the ones we see in confinement being, for the greater part, hand reared; this being the case, I do not consider it necessary to deal with the matter of steadying and meteing off.

Hand Rearing. Take at nine or ten days old, keep in a warm room, and feed every hour with a moist food consisting of barley meal and fine scraped raw beef, with a worm or slug occasionally when obtainable; moisten the whole with milk, and be careful to see that it does not turn sour.

I have hand reared several in this way and found them thrive.

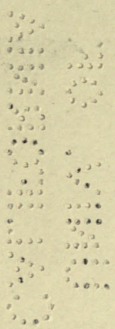
General Feeding. As a stock food, Melox, barley meal and milk, with the addition of a little raw beef or roasted bullock's heart, will prove a good and nourishing food. Offer any table scraps, such as potatoe, bits of meat, cheese, pudding, in fact scarcely anything will come amiss to this bird, he not being by any means fastidious in his fare.

Exhibiting. Here we have another magnificent bird which is far too seldom kept for exhibition purposes, being, perhaps, rather difficult to keep in tip-top form owing to his long tail and delicate coloured chest, but I have found no difficulty in this way, for I have always kept it well cleaned out with a good thick bed of sawdust and plenty of room; it has then always done me justice as its owner.

In selecting an exhibition specimen, get one as large in the body as possible and the tail of good length, the black and white being at all points evenly cut and free from breaks. Withal, general condition is the crowning necessity that goes to make an exhibition specimen.

Attractive Qualities. "Maggot," as he is often called by the cottager who keeps him as a pet, is a most interesting bird, for he can be taught to talk and whistle most distinctly. I have heard many that have been excellent mimics of our wild birds, seeming to see pleasure in being always on the chatter or whistle.

It is most necessary to frequently clean out his tray, or often your friends will think that you have a small menagerie from the smell that is created by the stale excreta of this bird. I know nothing better than a good thick bed of sawdust, change at least twice a week, every other day preferable. If you do this your pet should always be a credit to you by his beautiful plumage, and pleasure from the fact of his entertaining powers.



Jay

Garrulus glandarius (Linnæus).



The property of Mr. C. T. Maxwell, Brixton, S.W.

JAY

Description of Parent Birds. Male: Length about fourteen inches; bill medium length, strong and straight; crown of head, greyish-white, spotted and lined with dark brown, forming an erectile crest; a black streak extends from the gape down the sides of the neck; nape of neck, cheeks, back and scapulars light purplish-brown; wing coverts sky blue, barred with a lighter shade and black; lesser wing quills white, shading to black on the lower parts; greater wing quills white and black edged with greyish-white; rump white; tail dusky brown; chin white; breast and upper belly pale purplish-brown, shading to white at vent.

Female: Similar in all respects to male and hard to distinguish.

Habitation. Generally found throughout these Islands in well wooded districts where abundance of cover abound.

Nest and Eggs. The nest, which is for the most part placed in tall bushes and hedges, is composed of twigs, coarse grass, all cemented together with mud and clay. Five eggs are the general number of a pale green ground colour, very faintly shaded with pale brown, thickly blotched and spotted with olive brown, a series of blackish lines often being found on the larger end. Time: May, June and July.

Countryside Notes. But for the fact he is a rascal to young game that are hatched and reared around his domain, in the woods and plantations of our wilder countryside, the Jay is a truly beautiful bird. It is marvellous to me, seeing the great number that are persecuted year by year by the gamekeepers and property owners, that so many are in evidence to-day to tell the tale, but being at all times a most cautious bird, never letting the gunner get within striking distance if he happens to see or hear him in the vicinity.

I have often made his acquaintance in my country rambles, and I once saw a magnificent pair in the Forest of Dean sunning themselves on the hedge of a rough wood; using great caution I got within a very few yards of them and the larger one, which I took to be the male, was a magnificent fellow. Most beautiful they looked in the bright Spring sunshine, the vivid blue in the wings being most conspicuous. Ultimately, I presume I wanted to make too close an acquaintance to suit them, they took to their wings and made for a wood on the opposite side of the ground. About a month later, when in the district again, I visited the wood which I saw them enter for a purpose of finding their nesting site and did so. It was most securely built in a thick black thorn bush and the hen was apparently busy with incubation; as I came out through a hole in the hedge I saw the male sitting on a bough close by with something in its bill, apparently food for his sitting mate.

Yes, I think it a thousand pities that these magnificent

birds are not protected and so allowed to increase their numbers and beautify our countryside for which they are sent.

Catching, Steadying and Meteing off. The same applies to this bird as to the Magpie, to which I will refer the reader.

Hand Rearing. I have found the conditions set out for the hand rearing of the Magpie very suited to this bird with a little extra meat.

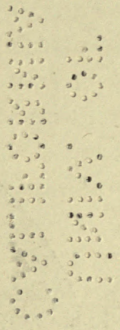
General Feeding. As a stock food, the Magpie will eat nearly anything that is left at our own tables, such as meat, potatoe, pudding, bits of cheese, etc., but for a morning meal I have found a little chopped beef, ox heart cooked, or even any kind of meat, mixed with scalded game or barley meal, answer admirably.

Exhibiting. Like the Magpie and several other of our common, yet none the less beautiful, birds, the Jay is seldom exhibited. He is certainly a most beautiful bird from all cage points of view.

Mr. Maxwell has been exhibiting a magnificent specimen the last three years and it has invariably done well. It is certainly the best I have ever seen and most beautifully kept. Of course size is a great necessity, the blue in the wings should be as bright as possible and evenly barred with black, the head markings need to be well defined and the general body colour of the richest possible hue.

Attractive Qualities. Although, perhaps, rather a dirty bird in its cage if not frequently cleaned out, but for this the Jay would be a general cage pet, and can be taught to talk and mimic most distinctly, even to call the cat or dog with such apparent likeness to its owner that the animal is often deceived. A friend of mine had one that would call him in the morning, I do not suggest at a given time, for often as early as four o'clock he would start and keep on calling, "Walter! Walter! get up, get up!" Unfortunately, this became a nuisance to the neighbours, and he had to go, but I understand the severing of his connection with his original owner, "Walter," was the cause of his death through pining.

Hoopoe



Upupa epops (Linnæus).



HOOPOE

Description of Parent Birds. Male: Length about twelve inches; bill curved, very slender and long, extending from the top base of the bill to the back of the skull, is a double row of fawn quills tipped with white and black, forming a crest which is put up and down at will; head, neck, back and wings light fawn; the whole of the lesser wing coverts and primary flights form distinct bars of black and white across the sides and back, starting with a black band at the butts and finishing with black tips to the primary flights; tail quills black, marked with broad white band towards the end; chin, throat, breast and belly light fawn.

Female: Similar to the male in all respects.

Habitation. Rarely seen in these Islands, being a Spring migrant to the southern Countries of Europe.

Nest and Eggs. Not breeding here, I shall not attempt to deal with this matter.

Countryside Notes and Catching. Being only on very rare occasions seen in this country, I shall not deal with this.

Steadying, Meteing off and General Feeding. The former is an easy matter to accomplish, as this bird takes fairly readily to confinement.

As to meteing off, a plentiful supply of mealworms, wasp grub and gentles must always be at hand, or your

bird will die; provide a good insectivorous food and mix the insects well amongst it, giving in the first instance at least half live food, and gradually reducing to a quarter. The stock food needs to be of the very best, containing plenty of live or fresh ants' eggs, and served in a fairly deep vessel.

You will find him particularly partial to mealworms, and I advise you to pinch the heads of these as he is very apt to endeavour to kill them by hammering them on the floor of the cage, and so very often split his slender bill; this is a matter of great importance, as is also the providing of a sand tray at least two inches deep, and always kept full of fine dry sand, in which he loves to bathe, and so clean his plumage as he takes no bath.

Some ornithologists say that this bird does not drink. I cannot say that I hold with the argument; at the same time, I have never actually seen them drinking, but they seem very fond of placing the whole length of their bill in the water occasionally when feeding, and, as a consequence, I never keep them without water in their cage.

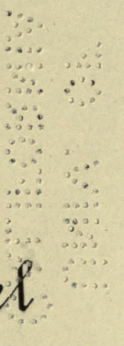
Exhibiting. Though rarely seen on our show bench, it is, I believe, an exhibition bird of the future, for one or two very fine specimens have lately been exhibited and have done fairly well. There is no doubt that they have no superiors, for their beautiful fawn coloured dress adorned with black and white, together with the fan-like crest that adorns the head, makes them a great attraction at all times.

In selecting an exhibition specimen, get one as large

as possible, with fine crest, well and evenly marked. See that the bars on the back are evenly distributed, the white ones becoming narrower as they get nearer the tip of the wings. The fawn on the head, chest and belly should be as rich a shade as possible, and the tail carrying a broad white band.

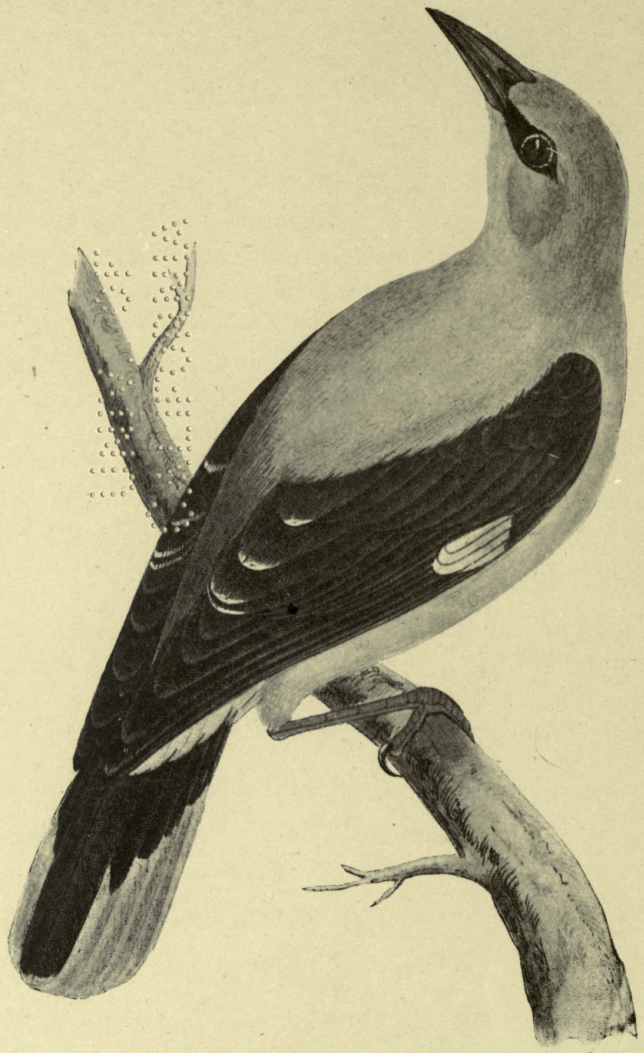
Attractive Qualities. As a cage pet the Hoopoe is very pretty and interesting, always apparently bowing at your presence, and frequently uttering his call-note, Hoop-o, from whence he takes his name.

I have always found them fairly easy to keep in confinement if ordinary care is used and good food provided.



Golden Oriel

Oriolus galbula (Linnæus).



GOLDEN ORIEL

Description of Parent Birds. Male: Length about nine and half inches; bill medium length and strong; crown of head, neck, back, breast, sides and lesser wing coverts bright lemon-chrome; a black widish streak extends from the base of the bill, encircling the eye, and extending to the ear coverts; wing and tail quills black, the latter being tipped with lemon-chrome, varying from very narrow in the centre to some quarter of an inch on the outer sides.

Female: Similar to the male, but the chrome is far less brilliant, being of a greenish tinge, and the black not so dense.

Habitation. Rarely seen in these Islands, being for the most part a Continental migratory bird, arriving in the southern Countries of Europe in the early Summer for breeding purposes.

Nest and Eggs. As this bird does not breed here, it is useless to describe the above.

Countryside Notes. Being very rarely seen in these Islands, I shall not endeavour to write on this.

Catching. The same applies.

Steadying, Meteing off and General Feeding. The steadying of this bird is somewhat a difficult task, being a clumsy bird at all times in his cage and very inclined

to be tiresome, but I have steadied two after a good deal of trouble and care.

Provide a cage 30 × 18 × 18, and not an inch smaller than this, with punched bar front, and good drawers at end, cover your front three parts down with a dark cloth, and keep it so, for at least a fortnight, then gradually raise it a little every other day until quite removed. Doubtless you will still find your captive somewhat wild, and all you can do then is to use care and consideration.

I find the use of the spray each morning is a great advocate to bring about the desired effect, well covering the breast and wings, and he will ultimately wait for you to do this and open his wings to receive the water.

The meteing off of this bird is, for the most part, done when you purchase it from the dealer or importer.

Feed on a good insectivorous food, and give daily a banana or some fruit, such as cherries, grocer's currants, sultanas, raisins, etc.; these are natural foods for him, and most necessary to keep the bird in good health.

Hand Rearing. This cannot be done, for obvious reasons.

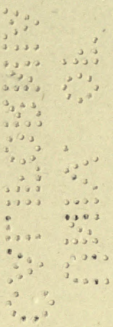
Exhibiting. I am sorry to say that I, like a good many more, have never yet succeeded in getting this bird in absolutely perfect exhibition condition, for, unfortunately, some little matter has cropped up that has prevented my showing him the year I have really meant to have done so, and before the next year comes round I have disposed of it.

I had a really grand specimen this last season, but could not steady it sufficiently to send it out with confidence, and, as a consequence, I sold it, like the others, but I have not given up hopes, and intend to yet again try my hand, and, if I am successful, I think there will be no doubt whatever as to its successful career. It is rather curious that such a great number are yearly sent to this Country and sold, yet we never see one at our shows. I say try, and you will sure to succeed sooner or later, and when you have you will have every reason to be proud of yourself and of your bird.

In selecting an exhibition specimen, get one as large as possible, of the brightest of plumage, and of good shape. See that the wings are well carried, and the feet free from goutiness, and toe nails complete.

Attractive Qualities. If in health and steady, the Golden Oriel is a magnificent cage bird; in fact, one of the most beautiful we have I believe.

It has no song worth speaking of, and is only kept for its beauty of plumage and its rarity.



Waxwing

Ampelis garrulus (Linnæus).



WAXWING

Description of Parent Birds. Male: Length about ten inches; bill short, fairly stiff and straight; from the base of the beak, to the crown of the head, and extending out beyond, an erectile crest is formed, terminating at a point, and of a chocolate hue; nape of neck, back and wing coverts light chocolate-brown, the wing coverts being tipped with pale yellow; bastards black, edged on the inner web with yellow; wing quills black, tipped and edged with yellow; on the inner quills the yellow edge is replaced with bright pink, very like sealing wax, from which the bird obtains its name; tail quills light brown tipped with bright yellow, the same being bordered with a black band; chin and throat black, extending from under the lower mandible and widening as it extends to a point well below the chin forming a bib; from the gape and passing under the eye is a black streak slightly curving downwards at the ear coverts and finishing at a fine point; breast, belly and under tail coverts rich fawn, shading lighter towards the vent.

Habitation. This beautiful bird, which is very rarely seen in these Islands, is a Continental migrant and is imported here.

Nest and Eggs. Not being a regular visitor, I shall not deal with this.

Countryside Notes. This I shall not deal with, as it is unnecessary.

Steadying, Meteing off and General Feeding. Like the Hoopoe, the Waxwing is a very docile bird, and is most easily steadied, in fact, the ones I have had have come direct from the importer, and I have never had to use any covering for the cage front in the early days of his caged life, and, generally speaking, he takes readily to captivity.

Feed on a good insectivorous stock mixture consisting of the best ingredients, with an admixture of grocer's currents, and cut up raisins or sultanas. You will find him fond of fruit generally and it is most necessary for his well-being, I find him also fond of the fruit or berry of the hawthorn.

Keep in a large cage, at least 30 inches long, 10 inches deep, and 12 to 14 inches high, as plenty of exercise is essential, or he will grow fat and die.

Exhibiting. As an exhibition bird, the Waxwing is a real charmer, always being in the premier honours let come what will, for his great docility, his stateliness, and magnificent plumage make him all that can be desired as an exhibition bird.

But, for some reason or other, it is rarely that we see it exhibited, in fact I think I am not wrong in saying that there are fewer put down to-day than there were a few years back.

Mr. Brotherhood, of Newport, Salop, has a very fine specimen that he is exhibiting this season, I think

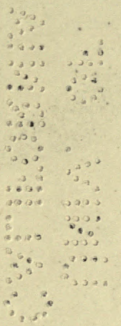
it is almost as fine a specimen as that gem that was so successful for Mr. R. J. Howe some three years ago.

In selecting an exhibition specimen, size, as in all other species, is of great importance. The crest on the head should be well defined. The bib at the throat should be evenly cut and of as large dimensions as possible. The general colouration of the whole body should be of a rich tone and even throughout. The yellow in the wings and tail as bright as possible, likewise the wax-like marks on the inner quills of wings.

Attractive Qualities. But for the fact that he is very apt to get too fat and die, I know no bird more beautiful and docile than the one now under review, for see him in whose possession you may, he never seems wild or in any way nervous, but always contented with his little wooden hut.

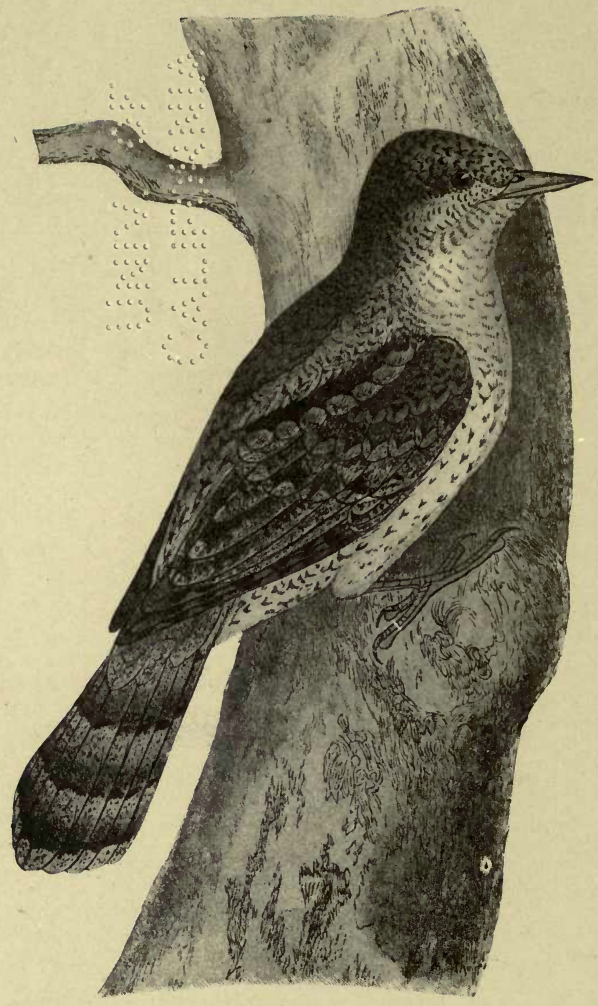
If not kept for exhibition, I should strongly advise you to keep it in an aviary in preference to a cage, as a deal of exercise is at all times necessary to keep down the fat and retain health and vigour.

I conclude they have no song, as the ones I have had have never obliged me, but apart from that, they make magnificent pets, and I heartily wish you luck should you ever have the good fortune to obtain one.



Wryneck

Iynx torquilla (Linnæus).



WRYNECK

Description of Parent Birds. Male: Length about seven inches; bill stiff, short and of medium length; crown of head, nape, back and upper tail coverts, a brownish-grey, streaked and marked with various shades of white, brown and black; wing quills dark brown, barred cross ways with lines of a yellowish-buff; tail quills light greyish-brown, lined cross ways in a zig-zag manner, with blackish bars, bordered with lighter shades; chin, throat, breast and belly greyish-white, tinged with cinnamon-brown and slightly marked on the breast and flanks with fine dark lines and spots of brown.

Female: Hardly so brilliant in colouring, otherwise very similar to male.

Habitation. Migratory, arriving in May and leaving at the end of August. Fairly plentiful in the southern Counties of England, rarely seen in Scotland or Ireland. For the most part it inhabits plantations, orchards and large gardens, where plenty of trees and cover abound.

Nest and Eggs. A hole in a tree usually suffices for a nest for this bird; he seems fond of a hollow tree, or the hole that has been previously used by the Woodpecker.

I know an old apple tree in North Gloucestershire where a pair have reared three lots of young to my knowledge. In another orchard not far away there were two nests of this bird in 1906 and I had a couple of

young ones from one of these; they turned out very fine birds.

As to materials none are carried, the eggs being laid on the little bits of chips or dirt that may be in the hole when taken to. Seven, and sometimes eight, eggs are laid generally. I have known only three on two occasions and five on another. They are pure white rather highly glazed, similar to those of the Lesser Spotted Woodpecker. Time: May, June and July.

Countryside Notes. About the middle of May in the orchards and plantations of the West and South of England, you are greeted with the somewhat strange yet ringing call-note of the Wryneck, uttered, perhaps, some six or eight times in quick succession, and if you look closely in the direction of where the sound came from, you will invariably find him on the outer branches of some apple or pear tree sat in the sunshine.

He is somewhat difficult to locate owing to the curious grizzly colours that go to make up his attire, but he is a most handsome bird when you get close to him.

He has two front and two hind toes, which assist him in climbing the trees, in searching for grubs and insects on which he exists. He has a most curious tongue, which is like a minute tube, with very strong suction power; it is used for securing the insects that lie in the more difficult crevices of the bark of fruit and other trees, which he is able to do with the greatest of ease, the tongue extending fully an inch beyond the end of the bill.

Catching. The easiest way I know of taking this bird is by the use of a limed twig placed in the position the

bird often occupies, but I am not a lover of adult caught birds, much preferring the hand reared specimen.

Meteing off, Steadying and General Feeding. Adopt the same method recommended for the Nightingale, with the addition of a few extra mealworms per day and a good supply of scalded gentles, and your bird should do well.

Hand Rearing. The same applies in this case as in the above, viz.: carry out instructions given for "Gale."

Exhibiting. The Wryneck makes a famous bird for exhibition purposes and can always hold his own if a good specimen and well put down. Colour with these birds, as well as all others, needs to be of the warmest, all bars and cross lines showing out distinctly. Size, too, is a great item, likewise the toning on breast and neck. If well cared for, this bird will shine like silk itself and look most handsome.

Attractive Qualities. The Wryneck, as the name seems to apply, is a funny little chap, for, if he is in a cage in front of you and pretty well used to your presence, he will very slowly extend his head and neck until it will go no further, then with a jerk it returns to its normal position; he seems very fond of doing this and will repeat it over and over again, generally placing the feathers at the crown of the head erect in doing so.

He has a very peculiar rattling noise that he makes occasionally similar to that of a snake, although I have often heard him do this in the cage I never remember hearing him make it when wild.

Take him all the way round he is a most interesting cage pet and generally admired by all who see him.

Green Woodpecker

Gecinus viridis.

GREEN WOODPECKER

Description of Parent Birds. Male: Length thirteen inches; bill fairly long, very strong and straight; crown of head crimson; neck, back and lesser wing coverts light olive green; rump and upper tail coverts bright golden-yellow, the latter streaked with green; wing quills dusky, spotted and barred with pale buff; tail quills dark brown edged with green and barred with light brownish-grey; a black line extends from the gape (just below the crimson) and through the eyes to the ear coverts; another of crimson and edged with black joins the black line at the gape and extends downwards at the sides of the neck; chin, throat, breast and belly grey, suffused with green.

The female is similar to the male but for the fact that the crimson crown and likewise the crimson at the sides of the neck are not so brilliant and the latter is for the most part black.

Habitation. Generally well distributed over the whole of England and Wales, not quite so plentiful in the more Northerly Counties as in the Midlands and South.

Nest and Eggs. For a nesting site a hole about two inches in circumference is bored in a tree. I have found it at various heights from the ground, as low as five feet and as high as thirty. Often several holes are made before one is decided on. I have found holes started and, after boring about three inches inwards, they have

been forsaken, probably owing to the hardness of the wood.

No nesting material is carried, the eggs being deposited on whatever fine chips may be left in the bottom of the hole when finished. The eggs, which vary in number from five to eight, are pure white and free from any markings.

Countryside Notes. Often when crossing some well wooded district, you will hear the curious laughing call of the Green Woodpecker ring out in front of you, and as you catch sight of him climbing on the trunk of some tree, probably hammering away with his wonderful beak, you can then well say to yourself what a magnificent fellow he is. As you approach near to him, with quick flight he will sally forth, again laughing, to a tree some few yards further on. It is then that the rich golden-yellow on the rump is so easily distinguished and what was a most handsome bird when clinging to the tree now close in front of you is, in your estimation, far more so by reason of the beautiful gay colouring that was previously hid from view.

In the North of England they are certainly very scarce for, although I have traversed most suitable localities, I have only seen one pair. Unfortunately, they fall an early prey to the pot-hunter, if they come within the reach of his gun, only to be stuffed and put under a glass shade to satisfy his boast of having shot it.

Steadying and Meteing off. Useless to try, it is far too wild and clumsy.

Hand Rearing. Take at ten days and place in a basket lined with hay or chaff. For the first week feed exclusively on the best ants' eggs, soaked and dried in a towel, plentiful supply of beetles (cut up), mealworms, wasp grub, spiders, or any live insects.

After a week or ten days on this diet, make a food of equal parts of best ants' eggs, fresh yolk of egg and finely powdered biscuit or game meal, giving a little insect life each day in addition.

A week on this should bring them pretty well able to pick up for themselves; at this time gradually reduce the egg each morning until none is given as they (the eggs) are not good as a staple food.

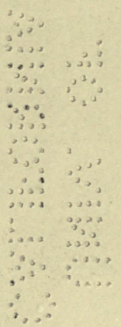
General Feeding. As a staple food, I find soaked Melox passed through a fine sieve with equal parts of fresh live ant eggs and a few dried flies answer admirably. Of course such insects as recommended in the earlier days of hand rearing given daily will be appreciated.

Exhibiting. Unfortunately, for some reason or other, neither of the Woodpeckers seem to do well on the bench, probably owing to the cork linings of their show cages not being entertaining to the eye. Several very fine specimens have been shown of late years and they have not often got their deserts.

An exhibition specimen should be as large as possible, the crimson on the head and neck of the purest possible colour and free from black specks. The general body

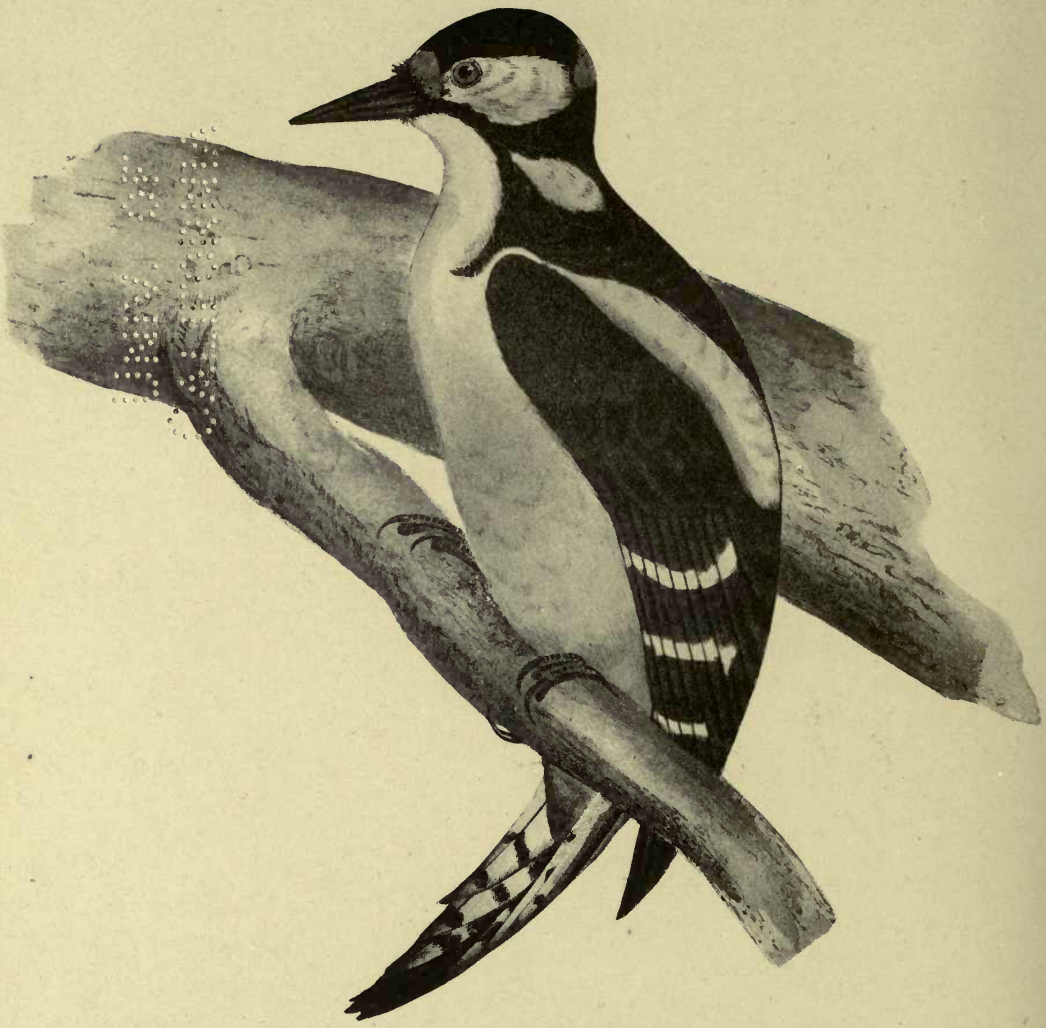
colour of a bright tint, the rump a bright golden-brown. Unfortunately, it is somewhat difficult to keep the tail feathers in good condition; this is one of its greatest drawbacks.

Attractive Qualities. But for exhibition purposes I should never have this or the Greater Spotted variety in a cage for I do not consider them really suitable, as they are at the best of times very clumsy in moving about. But as an aviary bird make a most beautiful addition, in fact it will, I believe, live far longer in this way than in a cage.



Greater Spotted Woodpecker

Dendrocopus major (Linnæus).



GREATER SPOTTED WOODPECKER

Description of Parent Birds. Male: Length about nine and half inches; bill medium length, very strong and straight; forehead pale buffish-white, tinged at the base of the upper mandible with brown; crown of head black; back of head crimson; cheeks white, tinged with buff; a black band extends from the gape below the eye to the back of the neck, the same passing downwards at the sides of the throat; just below the white of the cheeks and set in the black on the sides of the neck is a whitish patch; back, rump and upper tail coverts black; scapulars for the most part buffish-white; wing quills black, intervened with white stripes at even distances forming a series of bars; tail quills black in centre, tipped and edged with white on the outer sides; chin, throat, breast and belly white, tinged with pale brown; vent light crimson.

Female: Hardly so large as male and is devoid of the crimson on the back of the head.

Habitation. Generally well distributed throughout the Southern and Midland Counties of England and Wales. Rare in the North, Scotland and Ireland.

Nest and Eggs. Like all the Woodpecker family, it deposits its eggs in the holes of trees. I have known it take to a hole that was in the previous year utilised by the "Green" variety.

No material but the little bits of chips and dust that may be found or left in the hole are used. Various numbers of eggs are laid, sometimes as few as four and as many as six; they are pure white, unspotted, very similar to the "Green," but smaller in size.

Countryside Notes. Here again we have a most handsome bird that is little known as an inhabitant of our countryside woods and plantations. It is certainly very shy and if you are to see it a very close watch and sharp hearing must be adopted. For the most part it lives in the higher branches of the lofty trees, which it inhabits. As far as my experience goes, immediately it notices you gazing at him, he will grapple round to the other side of the limb or retire to another tree in close proximity.

In South Gloucestershire I have met with it on several occasions. In one large plantation, where various kinds of well established trees of great height covered several acres of land, rising on either side and forming a complete valley in the centre, I knew of three nests in one season; rather singular to relate, two of these were placed in the trunk of large elm trees that had been apparently struck by lightning and gone to decay. I made a bold effort to secure a couple of youngsters from one of these nests but, unfortunately, just as my efforts were being crowned, my foot slipped off the very small ledge, the result was I went to the bottom rather quicker than I went up. Although unhurt, I did not attempt to

go up again but left them in the charge of their dutiful parents to bring them up, fit to take the world themselves.

Catching. Like the Green variety don't attempt to take and steady an old bird, for you will sure to fail and your captive die.

Steadying and Meteing off. As previously stated you cannot rear the adult bird; they are far too shy and clumsy to take cage life, therefore these details are unnecessary.

Hand Rearing. Carry out the same instructions given in the case of the "Green" and your birds should thrive.

General Feeding. The same applies here as to the "Green" with the addition of a few monkey nuts and sunflower seeds. Of these they seem very fond and will play for hours with them in the bark of their cage or aviary after the manner of the Nuthatch.

Exhibiting. As I stated in the instance of the "Green" variety, the Woodpecker family seem to meet with a cold reception at most of our shows. But if there is any favouritism shown it lies with the former. A very fine specimen of this variety has been exhibited this season by an exhibitor in the North of England, but it has not met with the success due to it in my estimation. These three birds give a fine example of the glorious uncertainties of the exhibiting of British birds.

164 Greater Spotted Woodpecker

Size and general distinct markings, pureness of colour, together with steadiness and condition, are the principle exhibition points relating to these birds.

Attractive Qualities. Here again to my mind, if you are not desirous of keeping your bird for exhibition, it is a most unsuitable cage bird, and is by far best turned into an aviary, where it can have more liberty and fly about to its heart's content. I have only had one, and I really don't think I should be in a hurry to accept another if it were given me.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker

Dendrocopus minor (Linnæus).



LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER

Description of Parent Birds. Male: Bill straight, medium length and strong; crown of head crimson; cheeks buffish-white; nape of neck black, with two lines extending from the gape, one over and one under the eye and ear coverts, joining the black at the nape; upper portion of back black; lower portion of back white, streaked and barred with black; wings black, barred with white, similar to the Greater variety; tail quills and upper tail coverts black, the former tipped, edged and barred with white; throat, breast, belly and under parts buffish-white, the flanks being slightly streaked with black.

Female: Similar to male, but the crimson crown is supplanted with white, suffused with brownish-red; belly and underparts of a darker shade.

Habitation. Locally found in the Southern, Western and Midland Counties of England. Rarely in the northern parts and not known in Ireland or Scotland.

Nest and Eggs. Like all other species of the Woodpecker family, it nests in holes in trees, for the most part those bored by its own exertions. This bird I find more partial to peth than to solid wood. I find it is particularly fond of old dead stumps and the trunks of pollard trees.

No materials are used in nest construction, the eggs

being deposited on what chips or dust are left in the hole after boring operations are completed.

The number of eggs vary from five to eight, often six, free from markings of any kind, and may be distinguished from those of the Greater by their size and sight of parent birds. Time: May and June.

Countryside Notes. Here again, as in the case of the Greater Spotted Woodpecker, we have a rare bird that is seldom seen by the average aviculturist. I have met it on several occasions in the South and West of England.

I cut a nest out of an old pollard stump on one occasion thinking the young were ready to take from the frequent visits of the male bird, but, to my surprise and disgust, the eggs were not hatched and the female was in the hole; she could not get away owing to my keeping a strict watch during cutting away the wood.

In another orchard not far off, I saw another pair about to make their sanctum in an old apple tree, and many hours I spent in watching these birds hammering away at the proposed site. Singular to relate, although they got well into the centre of the stump and quite nine inches down, they left it, and I entirely lost sight of them.

In the same plantation that I spoke of seeing three pairs of the Greater Spotted variety, there was a pair of the Lesser and I searched most diligently to find their nesting site but failed, in fact I never saw them apart,

always seeming to be working the trees together as if they never intended to nest.

It is indeed surprising how wonderfully round these holes are bored, and again, it is singular what a small entrance the variety herein described have to their abode.

We often say how wonderful are the works of the Great Creator. The power and intelligence He has instilled into the minds and bodies of the birds are alone far too deep for us to fathom.

Catching. Don't attempt it.

Steadying and Meteing off. Same as catching.

Hand Rearing. Take at nine days and treat the same as recommended in the case of the Greater and Green Woodpeckers. I have always met with success under this treatment.

General Feeding. Provide as a staple food that which is recommended for the "Green," with the addition of a few monkey nuts and sunflower seeds, as I find them very fond of these.

Exhibiting. Although I think the Green Woodpecker is the favourite, I certainly think the one now under review is the most suitable of all for caged life and exhibition, being smaller altogether than the preceding ones, in fact I think it is more content in a cage, at least it has always struck me as such. But after all there is still that little something about it that does not make it altogether a favourite of mine for caged life at all.

Like the "Greater," of course, size, general clearness of colouration are the principal features of an exhibition specimen.

Attractive Qualities. As before stated, I am not a lover of these birds at all for caged life for there is something clumsy about their movements, and in the two later varieties the lighter markings on the back and breast being of such a hue that they at all times appear to be requiring a tubbing.

But for the fact that I did not consider the work complete without including the Woodpeckers, I should certainly have left them out altogether.

A PLEA TO CATCHERS OF BIRDS

I cannot leave this work until I have put one heartfelt plea for the honest protection of all our adult birds from the first day of May till the last day of July, for during this time it is a thousand to one they are either sitting or rearing young.

Just think for one moment that you take a nice male Wheatear in June, what the result is and who are the sufferers.

It is the greatest probability that he is the parent of a nestful of chicks, and the whole of the responsibility of rearing the poor fatherless little mites into a fit condition to care for and look after themselves falls on the mother bird, the consequence is she has either to forsake them or let them die a terrible death in the jaws of starvation and cold, or if she decides to do her best to rear them, as I have known them to do, they will doubtless be poor, weak little things, through lack of sufficient nourishment during their nestling days and quite unfit, when the time somes, to take their long passage home to a sunnier clime, to spend the Winter as is their nature to do.

Even if the female is only sitting on a clutch of eggs she will often stay for hours waiting for her fond "*hubby*" to return with some dainty morsel to feed her. But he cometh not and she is compelled through sheer hunger and thirst to forsake her home and the eggs (at perhaps

a point of hatching) and the wee little chicks have to die in the shell.

Returning again to your captive bird, just look at him; he looks to be pining away, for the terrible shock of leaving his suffering mate and young to do for themselves is far too much for him, say nothing of losing his liberty. You provide good and suitable food, and treat with almost as much care as you would an invalid mother, but no, he still pines, and next morning, when you appear at the cage to see if things are looking any more promising, there in the far corner stiff and cold is the body of your yesterday's prize.

Weighing this up in your mind, you say to yourself, he didn't take kindly to cage life; this verdict may be right from a very broad point, dear reader, but the true facts are he died of a broken heart.

Once and for all, as a great lover of the birds of our countryside, don't take the parent birds during the period I speak of, but let them complete their undertaking which they have settled down to do with their mates, and I am sure the result will be far better for you and them as well.

Now, just a word or two on the taking of young. When the chicks are first hatched they have no solid food but a kind of a milky nourishment provided by the parents from their crops, after about three days on this they are gradually weaned off on to lighter food, and from that to the ordinary bill of fare of the adults, with which they are being fed at about nine days, from the day they are hatched. This is the age I have recom-

mended their being taken, for it is by far the safest age to rear them from, they invariably taking kindly to the food administered.

Now as to the parents of the stolen chicks. Yes, they will pine a little but not so much at this age as if they had been taken earlier, for soon after they are out of the nest and caring for themselves. I have noticed invariably they are at nest again in a very short space of time after their charges have been removed.

Common Ailments

THEIR CAUSES AND CURE

COMMON AILMENTS

THEIR CAUSES AND CURE

Under this heading I am dealing with by no means an unimportant subject, for, unfortunately, our pets, like ourselves, are often troubled with some little malady, and it is for us, as their keepers, to attend immediately to these on their making themselves apparent.

There is no doubt at all in my mind that many birds suffer greatly through nothing short of neglect on the part of the owners; it may not be altogether gross neglect, but through common sense and judgment not being used in their general treatment and management.

For the sake of argument how often you hear of Mrs. Somebody's canary suffering from what is apparently an asthmatical complaint, and her poor Dickie has gone entirely off song; probably the party she got it from is charged in her mind with all sorts of unfair dealing. Now it is not at all necessary for such to be the case, for if you ask the dear lady where she keeps her bird, she will tell you in nine cases out of ten, up over the window where the cat can't reach it.

This is all very well perhaps during the day, but after the gas or lamp has been lit a hour or so, let our friend stand on the table and sample the atmosphere and it will surprise her, the heat being often as high as eighty degrees, say nothing of poisonous gases that are there and smoke as well.

Now think for your dickie in the same position night after night, week in week out, and I think you will agree what is the cause of his going off song, and suffering in the way he has been.

This one is only an illustration of many I could give of the lack of judgment in treating the birds under care, and until consideration and more common sense is used you will always be complaining of ailing bird life.

The first item I shall speak of is Bowel trouble, as invariably with the general fancier and bird keeper this is the seat of the major portion of his birdy ills.

I shall divide this up into sections and deal separately with each.

Diarrhœa.

Though perhaps to instant thought this malady is but a trifling one, I can assure you, dear reader, it is one of a few that is the ring-leader of many of the more serious ailments in our bird rooms to-day, and should without a moment's delay be attended to, or the result may prove fatal.

Cause. Diarrhœa may be caused in many ways, such as eating too much green food, through unclean drinking and feeding utensils, dirty water, sour food, or anything that is likely to cause fermentation in the bowels and stomach.

Again it may often be brought about through cold, or even chronic indigestion may be the forerunner.

Symptoms. The bird itself is what we term "all of a ball," its feathers hanging loosely and its eyes showing

apparent suffering. The excreta being of a very sloppy nature, often nearly all white, and sometimes very green in appearance.

Treatment. Really speaking, before we are able to prescribe a treatment for this distressing malady, it is best to have an idea as to its cause, which should be easily found out if a little forethought is used as to what the victim has eaten or drank, if the food or water are in any way contaminated, or if it is suffering from chill.

The general cause is undoubtedly too much relaxing foods, and a very simple way to relieve this is by taking away the drinking water overnight. Next morning, about ten o'clock, after having washed out the drinker and refilled it, stir into the water about as much prepared chalk as will stand on a sixpence; the bird being thirsty will drink at once and before the chalk settles at the bottom. Remove the remainder, wash out the drinker and fill with clean water again, adding half teaspoonful of Parrish's Chemical Food, stir this up and give to the bird.

If the apparent cause is from stale water or food, it is necessary to thoroughly cleanse out the stomach and bowels. I find the best method of doing this is by dropping half dozen grains of Epsom Salts well into the bill, followed by a couple of spots of lukewarm water to compel the bird to swallow, this will invariably bring about the desired effect. If it does not, repeat the same next day.

Then again, if it is the result of a chill or cold through-

out the system I advise you to remove your bird to the living room, where it can be placed in the warmth, and put about half dozen spots of best whisky in the drinking water each day till cure is effected. If this fails I am afraid it is rather a serious case, and you have no alternative but to resort to drugs; the most successful I have found is the use of about half a dozen spots of Chlorodyne in the drinking water daily.

I advise you at all times during treatment to feed your bird on scalded milk sop, rinsed as dry as possible, if he will eat it.

Constipation.

This is of course the reverse state of affairs to the previous one, and is more often than not brought on by over feeding (causing indigestion) or cold.

Symptoms. These are very apparent by way of the bird having great difficulty in passing its excreta, often though straining to do so, can't get a movement of the bowels. The plumage in this case is often very loose and the bird looking generally "thick."

Treatment. Take away all seed or food that the bird has been accustomed to and prepare a little bread and milk (the latter should be scalded and poured over the bread), add to this a little Summer Rape seed if the patient is a hardbill. Stir into the drinking water a teaspoonful of fluid magnesia, and this should relieve the bowels of their constipated condition, reduce the

magnesia to one half the quantity if you find the bird has had fairly good use of his bowels.

Some fanciers recommend annointing the vent with oil, but I have found no benefit from this.

Epilepsy.

This is a disease that often affects birds of gluttonous habits: such as Bullfinches, Siskins, Nightingales, etc.

Symptoms. The victim falls from the perch or is found in the bottom of the cage in a semi-stupefied state, and if not attended to quickly will often die.

Treatment. Take the bird out quickly and plunge it into cold water, which will return it to its senses; partly dry in a towel and place in a warm room until it is fit to return to its usual position. Drop about three spots of fluid magnesia into the bill, to relieve the crowded intestines, and feed on less fattening foods for a time at least.

Dysentry.

This terrible malady is generally prevalent in the hot days of July and August. Sometimes it claims fresh caught birds for its victims. It is for the most part brought on by change of diet, keeping the birds in a dirty condition, or in unhealthy surroundings, and must be treated without a moment's delay.

Symptoms. Bird apparently in great pain and suffering from diarrhœa. Yet there is a difficulty in passing excreta at times, which on examination are seen to contain blood, and is more or less of a gelatinous nature.

Treatment. Immediately on discovering this disease remove the patient to another room if there are other occupants as it is often very infectious. Take away from it, at least, all the foods of an oily nature and egg food in the matter of softbills, and feed as far as possible on scalded milk sop. Take the bird in your hand and drop about three spots of fluid magnesia into the bill daily, reducing it as the patient apparently recovers. Wash out the drinker, after filling with fresh water add half a dozen spots of Ipecacuanha Wine each day, reducing as in the case of the fluid magnesia as the bird improves.

Inflammation of the Bowels.

This is a common ailment among cage birds generally, particularly Linnets, Bullfinches, Greenfinches, etc., and is often brought about by improper feeding which sets up irritation in the intestines.

Symptoms. Apparent suffering by the plumage and eyes, frequent desires to drink, diarrhœa, and on handling, by blowing the feathers away from the belly the same will be found to be highly inflamed and of great heat.

Treatment. Remove the bird to the living room, take away all oily seed or egg food and drop into the bill about three drops of fluid magnesia, frequently foment the inflamed abdomen with cold water, and feed entirely if possible on scalded milk sop; also give fresh milk to drink twice a day. After once apparently cured I advise

you to put a little Parrish's Chemical Food in the drinking water every other day to tone up the system to its normal condition.

Exhaustion.

This is often in evidence when our birds return from shows that are of some distance or through neglect in transit and delivery.

Symptoms. Apparently tired and listless, feathers often ruffled, and at times loose.

Treatment. Place at once in a warm room somewhat near the fire and feed on tit-bits; provide milk to drink instead of water. If the sufferer is a softbill I find a few drops of Parrish's Chemical Food, or Fellows' Syrup, mixed with a little soft food to which has been added a few cut up mealworms will often work wonders in this kind of trouble.

Colds.

Generally speaking, colds of one form or another are a common occurrence in most bird rooms during winter. They may show themselves by way of huskiness of the throat and voice, shivering, or by wheezing of the lungs. Fortunately, if taken in time, they are easy to remedy if proper care and attention is given.

Huskiness of Voice.

This is to a certain extent rightly termed loss of voice, and is generally caused by draughts, it may be through damp or steamy atmosphere.

Treatment. Change your bird to a warm dry room, and put half a teaspoonful of fluid magnesia in its drinking water to cool the system which at this time is often a little feverish.

Next day wash out your drinker and add to the water about four drops each of glycerine and paregoric, continue each day and your bird should get well again.

Wheezing.

This is often brought about by sudden changes of temperature, and makes itself felt and noticed by a continual hissing-like noise when breathing, and the victim, if a male, often losing its song.

There is no doubt to my mind that in reality, it is slight inflammation of the lungs and throat, and needs to be quickly attended to or chronic asthma may follow in its train.

Treatment. Keep in a level temperature of about 60 degrees, and move the bowels by administering about three drops of fluid magnesia into the bill, stir into the drinking water a teaspoonful of glycerine and whisky mixed, and if possible feed on scalded milk sop to which has been added a sprinkling of pepper and maw seed.

Feet Troubles.

These chronic troubles which are, I am sorry to say, very prevalent indeed among Softbills, are for the most

part in my opinion brought about by too much heating food which is very apt to set up an excess of uric acid in the blood and cause the feet to swell and often be very painful.

In some cases there is no doubt but what it is caused by gout, but I do not consider this cause so common as the former one.

Symptoms. These are similar in either case, the toes and often the ankles become swollen and of highly polished appearance, the bird in most cases appears to be in pain, limping about and frequently resting the offending foot under its breast feathers.

Treatment. In the first place remove all perches and endeavour to find out the cause. If you come to the conclusion it is brought on by the food I advise you to wash the foot or feet and dry in a soft towel, great care being taken not to injure the toe nails, which are at these times very painful and apt to easily be removed owing to the swelling. Having done this anoint the parts twice daily with colourless iodine, and give half a teaspoonful of fluid magnesia in the drinking water every other day. Reduce the amount of richer food from its general mixture, and I think you will find this treatment if persevered with will effect a cure.

In the case of the trouble being caused by gout, which is often the cause when the patient appears to be in great pain. Foment the foot twice a day with hot water and

give an aperient to remove the excess of uric acid in the blood and cool the system.

I have tried several kinds of drugs, etc., and find that half a teaspoonful of Kutnow's powder, dissolved in two table-spoonfuls of water in a cup until fermentation has taken place, then given to the bird acts admirably, continue this every other day till cure is effected.

Toe Nails.

Frequently in one or more aged birds a little trouble arises by the over-growing of the toe nails, and it is necessary both for the bird's comfort and for the prevention of accidents to carefully cut these. To do so take the bird in the left hand, laying the head between the thumb and fourth finger. Take each leg separately, holding the toe with the offending nail in front of a strong light. Running from the toe in the centre of the nail will be seen a very thin dark line; this is a minute vein and great care must be exercised in cutting to keep on the outer side of this or the result may be serious. Having cut away the surplus nail very carefully, scrape the same to an even surface and return the bird to its cage. By chance should you sever the minute vein mentioned hold the foot of the bird in some strong alum water which should allay the bleeding.

Beak.

I have known on one or two occasions, with pet birds particularly, that the upper mandible has over-grown the lower one to such an extent that it has made it

difficult for the bird to feed. This would not be the case if a piece of cuttle fish was fixed between the cage bars, for the bird would constantly peck at this and so keep his bill in order.

Should you already have such a bird there is no other means of reducing the offender than by the use of a very sharp penknife, and with the greatest of care gradually pare away the over-grown portion, not of course forgetting that in most all our native birds the upper mandible slightly overlaps the lower when the bill is closed.

The Moult

THE MOULT

I did not intend to deal with this matter at all, but I do not consider my work complete without a few lines on this subject. For the most part Nature in its turn causes our birds to shed their old attire and don a new, but unfortunately there are times when our pets through weakness of constitution or sudden changes of temperature will either not moult at all, start at an unusual time, or get stuck in the midst of it. It is on these items in particular that I am going to endeavour to deal with, and I feel sure it will not be time wasted in doing so.

The proper moulting season for all our native birds is from the middle of July onward to the end of September, and by this time the greater part if not the whole should have completed their moult and fined down again in their new attire. Often in the best kept bird rooms there are individuals which will not start to shed their old attire and these are for the greater part birds of weak constitution or are run down and are requiring a pick-me-up.

I find that in the ordinary way quarter of a teaspoonful of Fellows' Syrup stirred into the drinking water every other day will often bring about the desired effect, but should it fail to do so after a few weeks treatment I advise you to adopt the Turkish bath method recommended later on in this article.

Sometimes a bird will get half way through this trying ordeal and through general weakness of constitution fail to complete it. If steps are taken at once and the tonic that I recommended in the previous case is administered it should continue and finish its moult all right.

Now as to soft moult, which I am sorry to say is often a great source of trouble to many fanciers. The symptoms of which are the shedding of feathers (often on the head) at some unnatural period of the year. This state of affairs is often brought about by sudden changes of temperature which should at all times be avoided. The best cure that I know is to remove your bird to an even temperature and give a tonic of about half a dozen drops of Fellows' Syrup in two table-spoonfuls of water every other day for a time, and anoint the bare portion with sulphur ointment every morning until the pugs begin to show themselves. This I have found more often than not successful, should it not be so in your case, I am afraid nothing can be done to induce the feathers to grow until the moulting season comes round, and then if the bird does not drop into its natural moult by the first week in August I should advise you to adopt the following plan.

Get a large pan of boiling water and place a board across the top sufficiently wide to safely carry the cage, which should be one with wire all round if possible, place your bird in the cage and the latter on the board provided and cover the whole over with a thick cloth, let the bird remain in this miniature Turkish bath for about

twenty minutes, and then gradually cool it down by placing it at varying distances from the fire until it is safe to return it to the bird room. This together with a course of tonic recommended earlier in this article, should prove successful by starting the bird in its natural moult, if it does not do repeat the Turkish bath again in a week's time, which is almost certain to effect a cure in the long run if it does not at first.

The Bird Room

THE BIRD ROOM

I think, perhaps, before I venture on Cages, Aviaries and Bird room requisites, it would be as well and beneficial to my readers if I wrote a few lines on this subject, for there is no denying the fact that a well-built and managed bird room is half the battle in the general success of the undertaking when keeping British Birds for Cages and Exhibition, for hence it is that the interest of a great many young beginners in this beautiful hobby fades like a plucked flower through sheer lack of ideas and general uniformity in the construction and general management of the bird room.

Firstly, where possible the position of the room or structure must be considered, for sunlight is the same to every living thing as it is to plants, viz., a great necessity for their well being, and to enable us to get this, combined with general warmth, a south or south-west aspect is without doubt the position we require. If a bird room is going to be constructed the position can of course be more easily chosen than if you are unfortunately compelled to use a N. or N.W. room. In the former case I advise you to use double $\frac{5}{8}$in. match boarding throughout, using 2in. × $2\frac{1}{2}$in. between, and packing the whole of the vacant space with pine sawdust; this creates warmth and makes your walls solid. Further it is well not to allow the joins in the boards to face each other; this may be easily avoided by cutting a board

down through the middle, and using the half at the end you start at, and on the other side a whole board, hence you get an overlap with every joint.

As to the floor, I advise you to construct it on 4½in. × 3in. joists, these standing on the flat side of a brick at either end.

As to the roof, which should be made of match boards run over 3in. × 2in. rafters, I prefer a *lean to;* that is, we will suppose your room is 9ft. high at the back, drop the front to 7ft. 6in., hence you get a good fall of 1ft. 6in, cover your roof with good thick felt, and over this use corrugated iron; as a consequence you get a cool roof in Summer and a warm one in Winter.

Next, as to ventilation, which is a most important matter. I cannot advise you better than that of using a sash the whole length of the front of your room (similar to greenhouse side-lights), hinged on say 6in. below the roof and being about 2ft. deep or wide (to explain this more fully I will put it this way: suppose your room was 9ft. long and 7ft. 6in. high at the front, then make a sash or long window 8ft. 6in. long and 2ft wide, this being hinged on some 6in. below the roof line on the front wall to open *outwards* and fastened by means of a casement stay). Over the whole of this surface on the inner side place ½in. mesh lattice wire and so prevent accidents of escape. As to the door, of course the position must be left to the builder. Make this of 1in. match boards and strap together with pieces of the same nailed crossways about 5in. wide, one of these about 6in. from the top and bottom, and

one in the middle. Hang this to the outer side of your wall so as to be able to hang another light door of ½in. mesh lattice wire on the inner side of the wall; hence in the Summer you can keep open the outer door and admit air and light.

You cannot do better than coat the outside with three coats of good lead coloured paint, following with two coats of green ditto. The inside I advise you to lime-wash or distemper, the latter of course preferred for obvious reasons.

The next thing is to fix the shelves for your cages, which must of course be according to your requirements.

A capital table is made by fixing in two 12in. × 10in. steel angle brackets, with an 11in. board, 1¼in. thick, just under the window ledge. It is here out of the way, and what is more, you have the whole of the centre of the room free, and underneath you can place your food and seed boxes.

Next, we come to an important matter, viz., mice. As I mentioned to you previously, place your floor joist on bricks. It was on account of the mice partly that I recommended this plan; for your cat can at all times then survey the underpart of your bird room, and what is more, there is practically no harbour for them, particularly if your floor is well laid and your sides fit as they should do.

Last but not by any means least is the matter of artificial heat during Winter; this of course is absolutely necessary in the cold, bleak days.

There are many good devices, but for economy, and

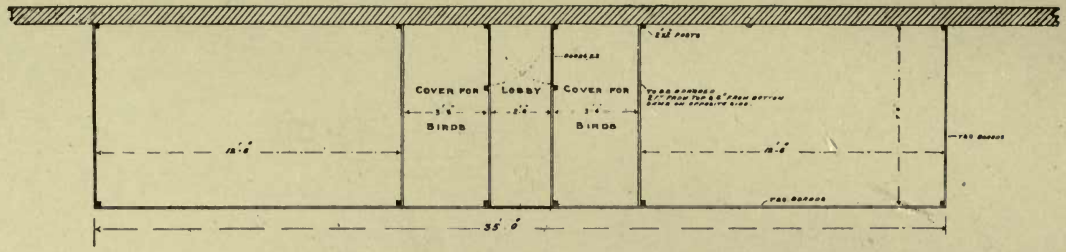
small initial outlay, I think you cannot do better than an oil stove with hot water cylinder and pipes attached; the cylinder is directly over the heat of the lamps; yet through the centre a 2in. flue is placed, to which can be fixed an iron pipe carried outside, and so avoid smoke and fumes entering your bird room. The one I have is some 8 feet over all. The tubes, which are three in number, circulate heat of a moist character over the whole of the room, and it is quite easy to keep up an even temperature of 60° on the coldest of days, the lamps burning some 12 hours without refilling.

Never use an oil lamp if you have no flue, for one night's smoke (if it happens to emit it), which all are apt to do, will utterly ruin your stock by coating their plumage with an oily soot which cannot be removed, to say nothing of disfiguring your wall and cages and showing up any cobweb that otherwise was unnoticeable.

Cages, Aviaries,

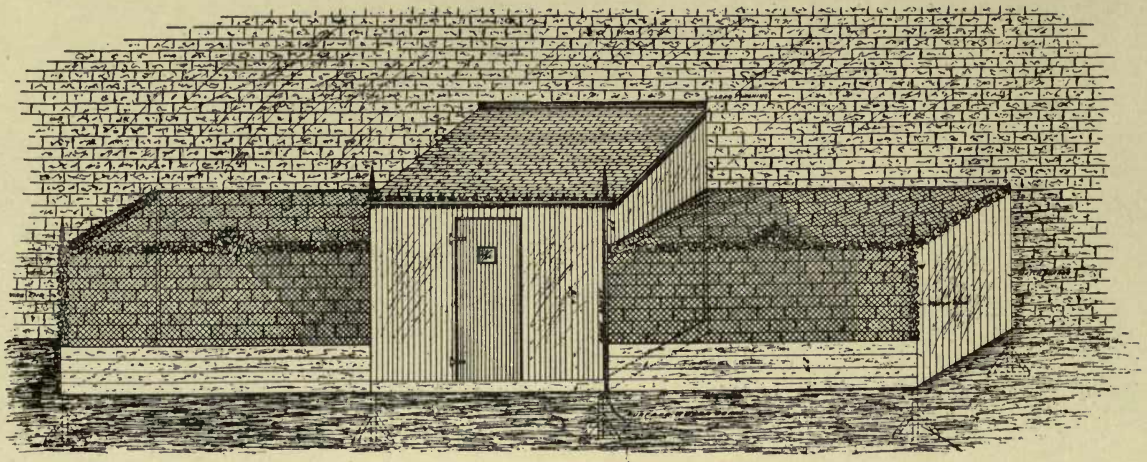
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Bird Room Requisites

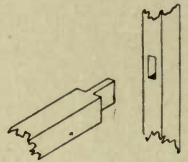


PLAN

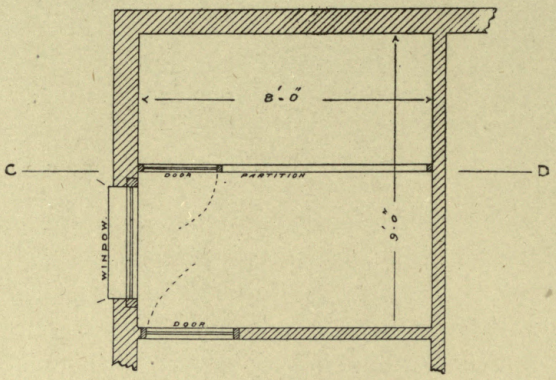
SCALE OF FEET



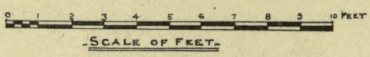
OUTDOOR AVIARY.



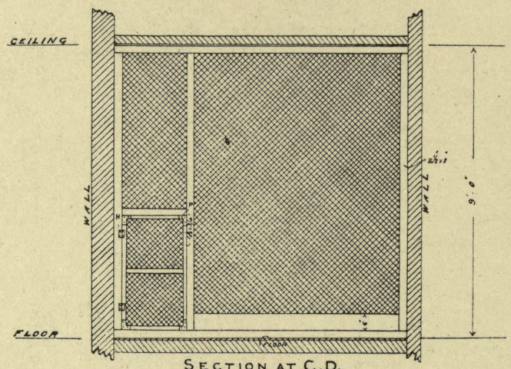
A. B.



PLAN OF ROOM.

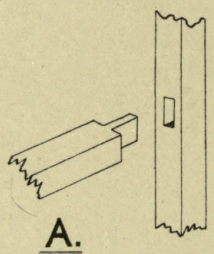


SCALE OF FEET.



SECTION AT C.D.

INDOOR AVIARY.



A.

B.

CAGES, AVIARIES, AND BIRD ROOM REQUISITES

Although I have dealt with these matters last, they are none the less important, for it has really pained me many times to see the horrible apartments that some birds are expected to spend their lives, when once taken from their natural freedom which has been given to them by Almighty God.

How often we see our sweet little friend the Linnet shut up in a so-called " hop-cage," which does not give the poor thing the least chance to expand its wings, and what is more, often they (the cages) are in a sad condition, being caked at the bottom with excreta, the result is the general health and condition of the bird suffer terribly.

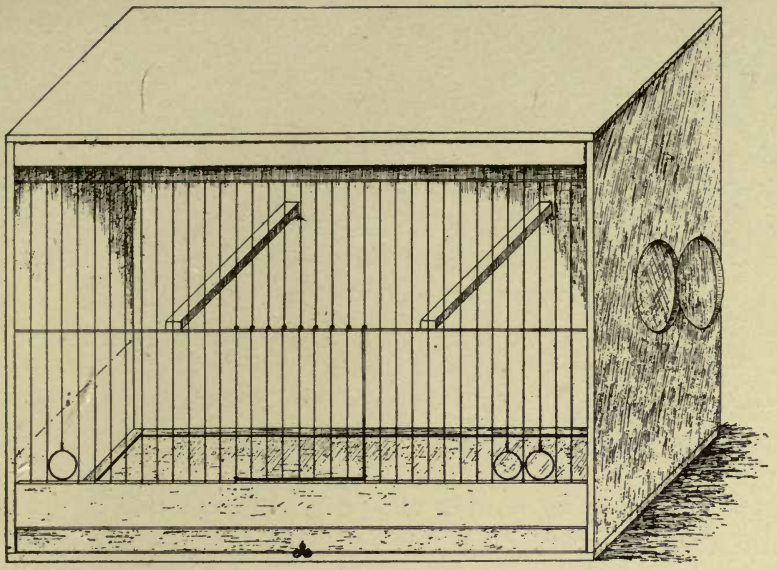
Then again our sweet caroller the Song Thrush is more often than not either fixed up in a rabbit-hutch sort of arrangement or in a most unsuitable cage, and when he is seen by one who is a lover and appreciator of the birds, nothing short of utter disgust penetrates his mind, for his tail is scrubbed off with filth by the smallness of his apartment and lack of proper attention, his beautiful speckled breast is more or less plastered with " sop " or some other unsuitable food on which he has been expected to exist, and to complete a most dismal spectacle he is looking exceedingly sad and far from well.

Leaving the cages, let us consider for a few moments the matter of aviaries. Of these I have seen many, some being works of art as far as ornamentation go, but far from comfortable for their occupants, others are plain in construction and the health of the inmates thought of before attractiveness to the eye. Whereas a few you meet with, are not only built with every comfort but attractiveness as well.

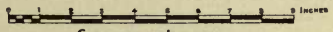
I am not all desirous of dwelling too lengthily on these opening items, but I think you will agree with me that the greater part of the aviaries we see to-day, give not the slightest shelter to their occupants from the storms and wind, or for warmth during the Winter nights.

We are all well aware of the fact that most of the birds we should keep in an aviary are of the finch-like families, and for the most part perhaps in their wild state, sleep out in the open air, but, dear reader, don't forget they have the cover of the holly tree or the thick shrubs and evergreens, while many thousands retire to the ricks and barns, and even under the thatch of the country-side cottage. The whole of these members have every chance, and no doubt take it, of exercising their wings and keeping themselves warm in the early morning and before roosting at night, while those in the aviary have not such a good opportunity of doing so, as a consequence, naturally require more covering at night time and during the colder days of Winter.

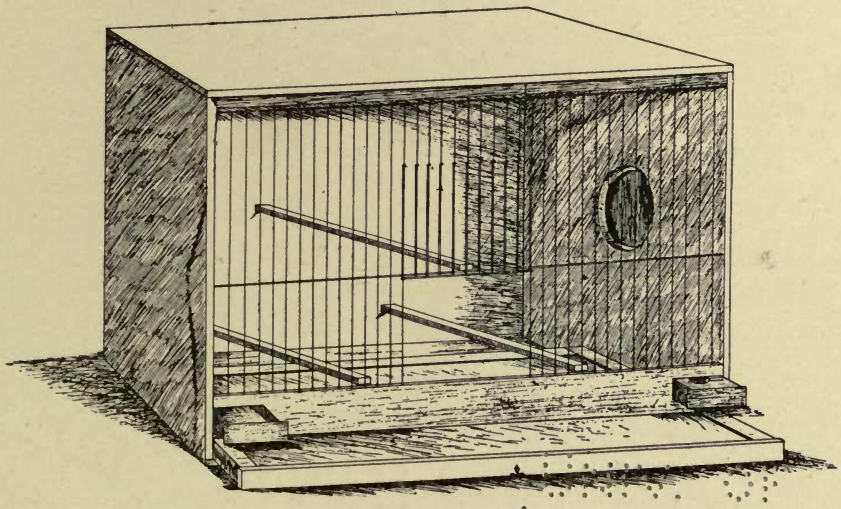
As to accessories and requisites, there is, I believe, much loss of food and many soiled feathers, say nothing of great inconvenience, through not at the first obtaining



No. 1. Stock Cages for Finches 18 x 13 x 8.

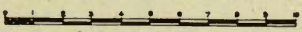


Scale of Inches.



No. 2. Stock Cage for Small Insectivorous Birds.

Size 18 x 13 x 9.



Scale of Inches.

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a few if not all the requirements necessary to carry out the various little duties towards our pets, and when you come to take into consideration the fact that for the most part these are by no means expensive items it is well and profitable to get them from all points of view.

I shall first endeavour to deal with the matter of cages, taking stock or general living first, show ditto next, following with the aviaries and bird room requisites.

Fig. 1. Gives you an illustration of a good ordinary stock cage, suitable for small finch-like birds. It should not be less than 18″ long, 8″ deep (back to front) and 13″ high, made from pine or good white wood, if it is within your means.

Of course discretion has to be used in the width of the space between the wires, for you have to deal with the Redpole, Siskin and Goldie, which will find a way out if there is one; therefore for these three varieties use half-inch punch bar, and for the Chaffinch, Greenfinch, Bullie, Bramble, etc., $\frac{5}{8}$ inch.

All these cages need to be made with door in the right hand end of the cage, as well as the sliding one in the front, the former being most useful for running the bird from the stock to the show cage and *vice versa*.

At all times see that the centre bar is not more than $2\frac{1}{2}$″ from the bottom one, and on this rest your perches, which should be fixed to the back of the cage by means of a piece of wire about 1″ long, driven into the end of the perch half way and inserted in a hole in the back of the cage, always keeping ample distance from either end

of the cage to prevent the occupant rubbing his tail feathers when perched.

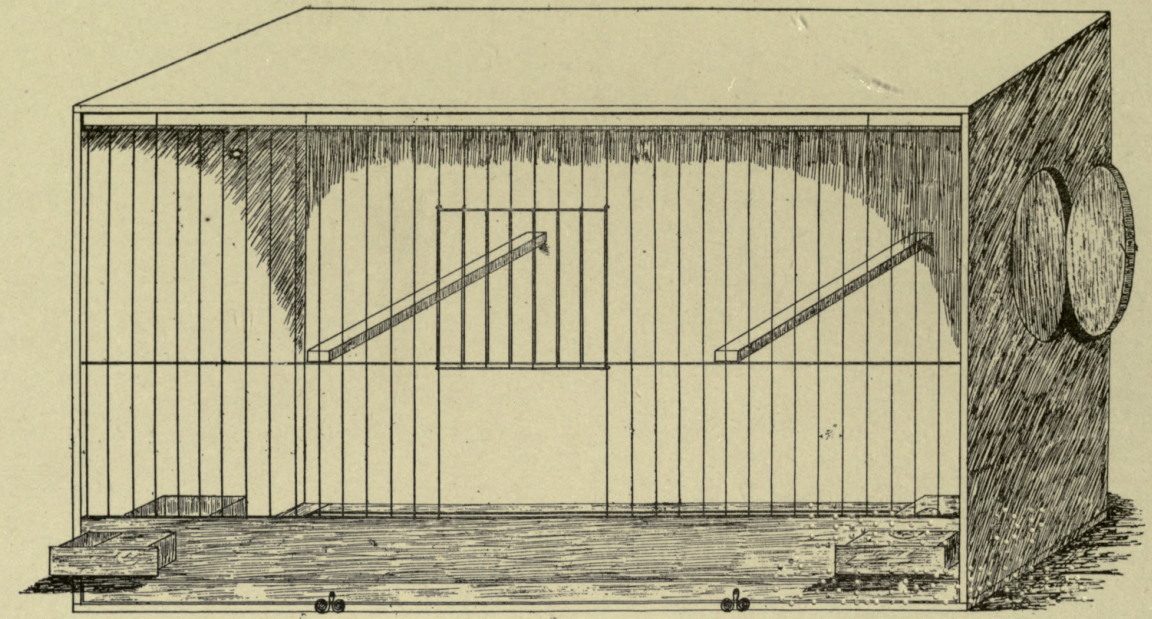
The Hawfinch and Corn Bunting of course require a somewhat longer, deeper and higher cage than do the smaller varieties, and for these birds I recommend 2″ being added to the length and depth and 1″ to the height of that shown in Fig. 1.

Going from the stock cages of the Finch-like birds, we enter on those of the Soft Bills, which perhaps are a little more difficult and of larger variety.

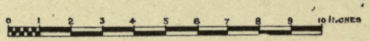
Taking the smaller species first, such as the Wrens, Chiff-chaffs, Pied Fly-catchers, etc., in figure 2, you have a most useful stock cage, and one that I have used with great success. Size 18″ long, 13″ high, and 9″ deep, with food and water vessels placed inside by means of a slot at either end as shown . I much prefer these feeders and drinkers made of china or zinc; they are 2½″ long, 2″ wide, and ¾″ deep. The water vessel, as you will note, has a covered top which can be removed for cleaning purposes. These I don't think you will obtain without having them made purposely, but if unable to get them in china or earthenware any zinc worker will be pleased to make them for you.

Of course in this case no water holes are made in the wire front, for your birds will be sure to escape if you have these.

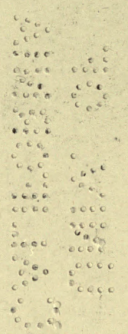
I advise ⅜″ punch bar fronts for all these smaller birds, as if larger is used they are very apt to knock out the feathers on their foreheads in attempting to get free.



No. 3. Thrush Blackbird Starling &c Cage. 28x16x12.



Scale of Inches.



For all other species of what we term small Soft Bills up to and including the Wryneck and Wheatear, utilise the same plan, adding 4″ to the length, and 2″ to the height and depth.

Fig 3. Depicts an illustration of a most suitable stock cage for the larger Soft Bills including the Thrush, Blackbird, Starling, Hoopoe, Oriel, Great Grey Shrike, etc. It is made on entirely the same principle as the one shown in Figure 2, but of larger dimensions and two perches only instead of three; length 28″, height 16″, and 12″ deep. For food, I find in the case of these larger birds that it is necessary to make the zinc drawer 4″ long, 3″ wide, 1″ deep. Perches in these cages need to be not less than ¾″ wide, taking particular notice that they are placed at sufficient distance from each end to prevent the bird injuring its tail. The punch bar fronts in these cases should be not less than ⅝″ mesh, ¾″ is better.

Fig. 4. Is a very suitable cage for Wagtails, Larks and Pipits. It should be at least 24″ long, 13″ high, and 9½″ deep, fitted with feeding utensils as described earlier for other small Soft Bills. Fix four or five perches about 2″ apart for all species of Wagtails and Pipits, but none for Larks. These should be placed in line with the bottom rail as shown. You will notice some 6″ on the left hand side I have partitioned off with a strip of wood of equal height to the bottom rail, which is cut short here as illustrated, and a door is made of the other portion and hinged on the side of the cage, with two

small brass butts, and fastened by means of a hook. This space is allotted for the purpose of placing a grass tuft there for Larks, or a sliding pan as shown, for the Wagtails to bathe in.

Fig. 5. Is the illustration of a cage I have found most suitable for the Tree Creeper. It is 13″ long, 18″ high, and 7″ deep, the whole being lined with baize and perch placed lengthways along the front in line with the food hoppers. The baize is best fixed by means of a good thick coating of glue. I advise you to use $\frac{3}{8}$″ mesh punch bar front for this bird and see that it fits well into the sides of the cage or the bird will escape.

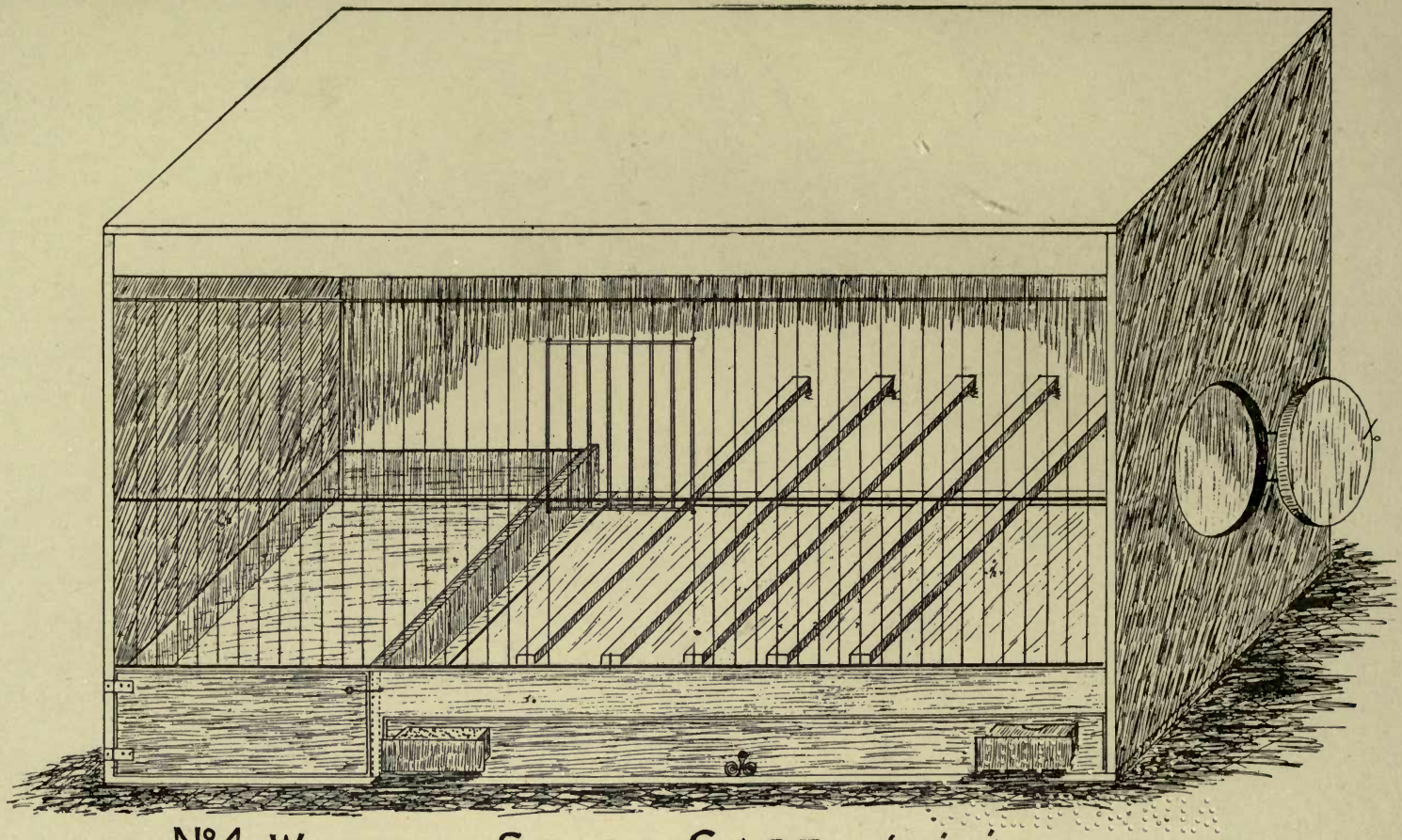
A similar cage will suit the Nuthatch and Lesser Spotted Woodpecker admirably if lined with virgin cork instead of baize.

Fig. 6 is an illustration of a similar cage to No. 5 but of larger dimensions, and suitable for the Green and Greater Spotted Woodpeckers. It needs to be at least 30″ high, 24″ long, and 14″ deep, lined throughout with virgin cork, and front of 1″ mesh wire of strong gauge.

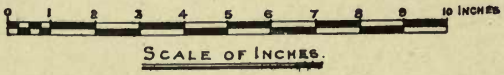
Show Cages.

Fig. 7 gives an illustration of a very suitable show cage for Siskin, Redpole, or Twite, for the former I find it is best enamelled out royal blue, and the two latter dark emerald green. Use $\frac{1}{2}$″ punch bar front with small drinking hole in left-hand side. Size, 11″ long, 9″ high, and 5″ deep.

Fig. 8 makes a very suitable cage for Goldies, Bullies,



No. 4. WAGTAIL STOCK CAGE. 24" X 13" X 9½"



SCALE OF INCHES.

Linnets, and Chaffinches, and is best enamelled out a bright emerald green, with $\frac{1}{2}''$ punch bar front and drinking hole as shown. Size, 12″ long, 10″ high, and 5″ deep.

The same design of cage, made 1″ longer and wider and $\frac{1}{2}''$ deeper, will answer admirably for any of the Bunting families, Bramble Finches, or Greenfinches. I find the following colours most suitable, Yellow and Reed Bunting, dark emerald green; Snow Bunting, royal blue; Greenfinch, French-grey; Bramble Finch, middle brunswick green. All perches $\frac{1}{2}''$ round and $\frac{5}{8}''$ punch bar front.

For Hawfinches and Corn Buntings, the same design of cage made 14″ long, 12″ high, and $6\frac{1}{2}''$ deep, enamelled royal blue in the former case, and dark emerald green in the latter, will answer well. If your birds are nice and steady use $\frac{7}{8}''$ punch bar front, if nervous $\frac{5}{8}''$ ditto.

The perches in these cases should be $\frac{3}{4}''$ round.

Fig. 9 makes an ideal cage for Wrens, Chiff-chaffs, etc., and should be 14″ long, 13″ high, and 6″ deep, fitted with three perches about $\frac{3}{8}''$ round, and covered with green baize. Enamel out light green or white. Food and water utensils fixed as shown, the wire grid prevents the escape of the bird when feeding or watering. Use $\frac{3}{8}''$ punch bar front and notice it fits well into the sides of the cage.

The same design, made 2″ longer and deeper, 1″ higher, will answer admirably for all the smaller species

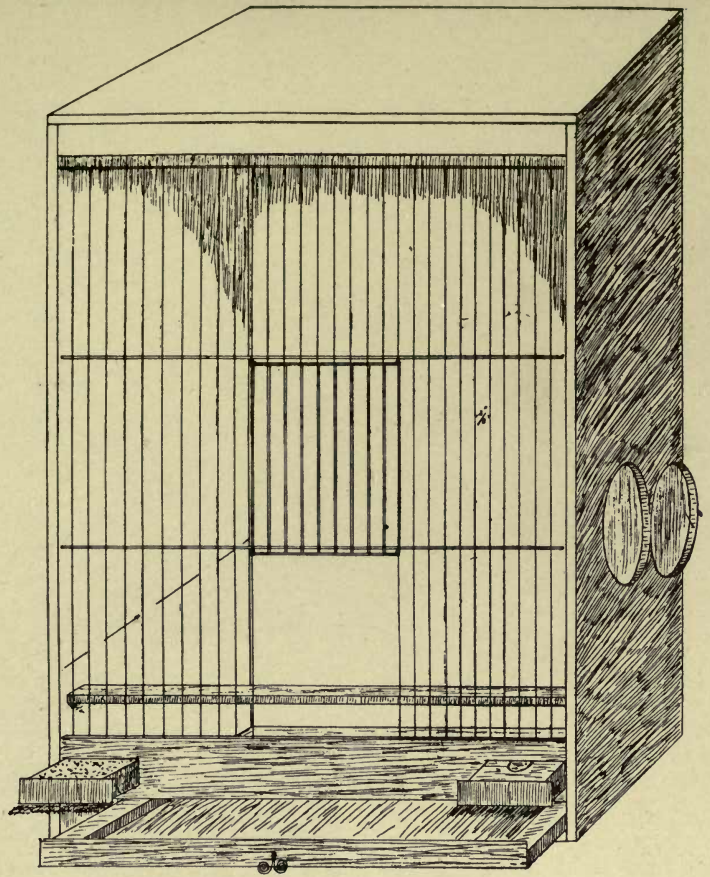
of soft bills up to and including the Wryneck, and excluding Larks, Wagtails, Tree Creepers, and Nuthatch. Use $\frac{1}{2}''$ perches covered with green baize and enamel out bright emerald green, pale blue, white, or royal blue, which ever colour shows the bird to its best advantage. All fronts to be made of $\frac{1}{2}''$ punch bar. Food and water utensils as shown.

Fig. 10. Makes an excellent show cage for Thrushes, Blackbirds, Starlings, Waxwings, etc., and it should be made 18″ long, 15″ high, and 9″ deep. The colour that is best suited for any of these birds is, I think, pale sky blue. Fronts should be made of $\frac{7}{8}''$ punch bar. Use two perches fully $\frac{3}{4}''$ round, and not covered.

For the Hoopoe, the same cage, made 1″ longer, $1\frac{1}{2}''$ higher, and the same depth, will answer well. Enamel out pale green and use 1″ punch bar for the front.

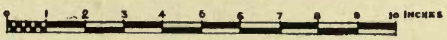
Fig. 11 is a most suitable show cage for the Tree Creeper. It should be 13″ long, 16″ high, and 8″ deep, the whole lined out with red baize. Perch across the front in line with the food vessels. Front to be made of $\frac{1}{2}''$ punch bar and enamelled black.

Fig. 12. We have here the best designed cage that I know of for the Sky and Wood Lark. The front of this cage may be ornamented with brass bands if desired. The wire front should be of $\frac{3}{4}''$ punch bar, enamelled black, the whole of the inside pale pink or pale sky blue. No perches are required, but a tuft of grass should be placed in the balcony, the front of which should be made to open for a purpose of removing the

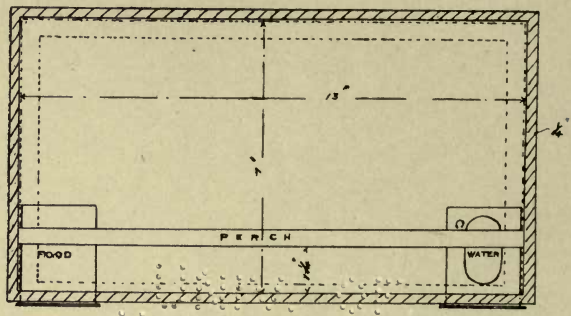


No. 5. TREE CREEPER CAGE. 13 x 18 x 7.

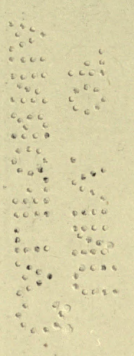
LINED WITH GREEN BAIZE.



SCALE OF INCHES.



PLAN of TREE CREEPER CAGE.



turf when required. Length 18″, 9″ at the highest point of the back, and 7″ deep apart from the balcony.

Fig 13. This design of cage will suit the Wagtails and Pipits splendidly. It is built on practically the same principle as those for the smaller Soft Bills, but different in shape, being 20″ long, 9″ high, and 10″ deep. Four perches are fixed near the bottom rail as shown, and 2″ apart. Enamel out bright sky blue or pale apple green, and use ½″ punch bar for the front.

Figure 14. Is the show cage for the " Green " and Greater Spotted Woodpeckers. It is far best made of light tinned iron, but if made of wood it should be lined with light zinc owing to the very destructive nature of this bird in pecking and hammering away in every part of his cage for insects he thinks are to be found there.

Line out the whole with virgin cork tastefully arranged. Use 1″ punch bar front which should be blacked, no perches are needed, but brass handle is necessary at the top of the cage to carry it by.

Length 18″, height 24″, depth 12″.

A similar cage made 12″ long, 15″ high, and 10″ deep will do well for the Nuthatch and Lesser Spotted Woodpecker. Use ⅝″ punch bar and line with cork as in the former case.

I think I have now done justice to the cages themselves, and before I leave them I will just mention a few little matters that will prove useful no doubt to the novice. Enamel all show cage fronts the same colour as the interior, and the whole of the wood-work black.

Place all the food for Hard Bills in the space allotted as shown in the drawings, using sharp sand or grit on the cage bottoms.

For Soft ditto use damp peat or sawdust on the bottoms of the cages, the former preferred.

Use the D shaped feeders and drinkers in the Soft Bills' cages, as they are far better than the round ones, having a flat side.

Thoroughly wash out all drinkers and feeders after each show, dry and put away.

Wash your cages out with warm water and leather, dry and polish with a soft cloth.

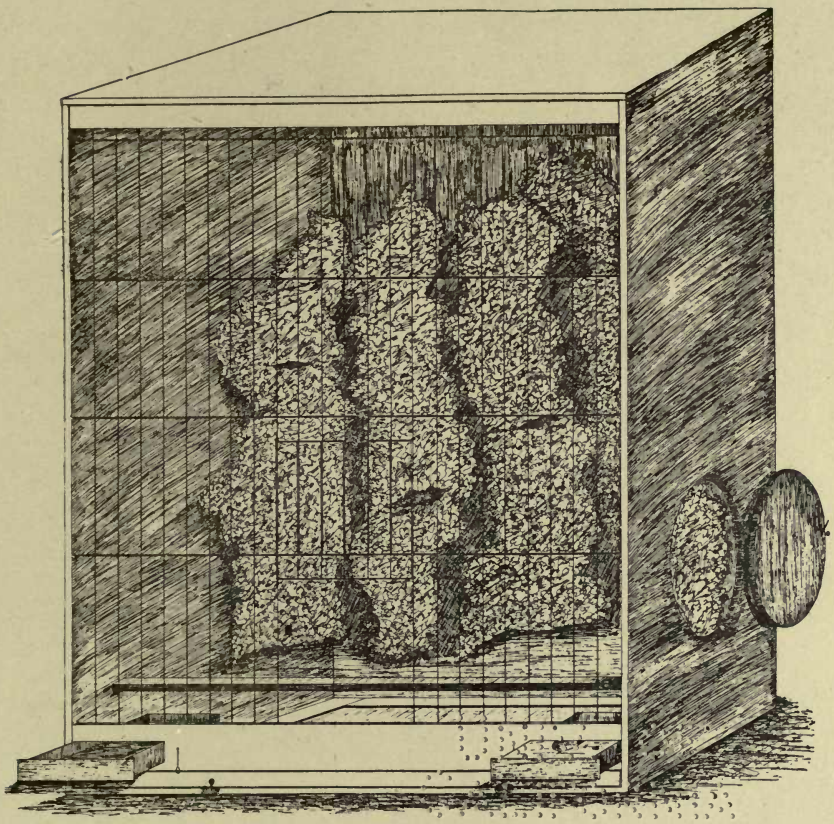
Always unscrew all perches to wash them or the worm of the screw in the wood will get worn by the friction and cause it to become loose.

Last but not least always have your cages ready in every respect by way of food, etc., and labels tied on, before putting your birds in them.

Aviaries.

These may be divided into two classes, indoor and outdoor. Indoor aviaries would mean for the most part either the use of an entire spare room or part thereof. If the latter is adopted a frame has to be erected and covered in with fine wire.

This is not altogether a difficult job, and may be accomplished with little damage to walls or ceiling. First of all, take a stiff knitting needle and drive (after sounding the ceiling with the flat end of the hammer to find the joist) into the spot where the sound appeared



No. 6. LARGE WOODPECKER CAGE. 24 x 30 x 14. LINED WITH ZINC.

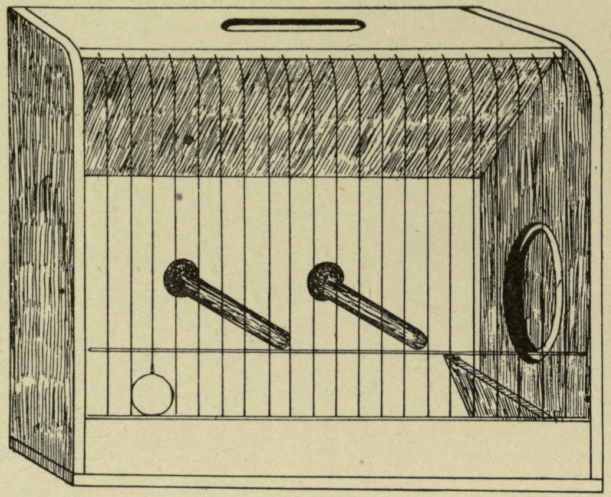
A TO BE LINED WITH VIRGIN CORK.

SCALE OF INCHES.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

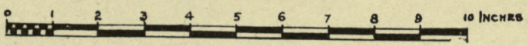
solid, you will doubtless find the ceiling joist there, to which the top of the partition has to be fixed. I advise the use of a knitting needle or very fine long bradawl, as it does not make a large hole in the plaster. Do this at even distances of say three feet, along where you require your partition to be fixed. The most useful size of scantling for this work is $2\frac{1}{2} \times 2$; white deal and free from knots. Cut your top, bottom and middle rails: the one will go against the ceiling, the second one to the floor, and the third midway between the two latter. Take three uprights sufficiently long, reach to the ceiling when placed on the top of the bottom rail, and cut a tenon as shown in Fig. A at the one end of each, likewise mortice (Fig. B) the top rail to receive the tenons at the required distances, one each of course at either end, and the third, which will form the door jamb, about 2′ 3″ from the end you require it. Having done this you will next take a short piece of the scantling 2′ 7″ long and tenon 2″ at each end as shown in Fig A, likewise mortice the centre upright and the fellow-one that is to form the jambs for the door at a height of 4′ from the ground. Now take your top rail and fix to the ceiling with $4\frac{1}{2}$″ screws (as these are easily withdrawn), ditto your bottom rail to the floor with 3″ screws, take your two outside uprights and fit into the slots at the top rail, secure at the bottom by means of a screw driven skew ways. Next comes the top of the doorway which should be dropped into the morticed slot provided on the upright already fixed, hold there, place the other upright into position at the top and push the other tenon in the

head of the doorway into the mortice slot provided, and fix the whole by means of screws. Having done this we have next to deal with the door itself. I know nothing better for this purpose than some good stiff slate batten, half-jointed at the corners and secured by means of light angle brackets; take another piece of the same lath and place across the centre, halving it into position. Hang your door with pair of H hinges, about 3″ long, and your framework is complete, cover the whole with ½″ mesh lettice wire secured by means of small staples. Next thing we have to do is to fix up the interior. We will start with the perches. I don't think there is a better plan for this than to take a piece of wood about 2″ × ¾″, the length of the wall you require to place it on, screw on at equal distances of about 10″, pieces of round ash stick, such as you buy at any bird dealers for a penny; these being cut about 5″ long, plug your wall and fix in position by means of a couple of screws; a similar set of perches may be placed across the framework of the partition on the far end of the aviary if needed. In the corners may be placed hardy shrubs, such as do not require a deal of water, if this is not within the means of the fancier, a large flower pot filled with soil and a quantity of brush nut wood stuck in it, will make a deal of amusement for the occupants, and it is easily replaced with fresh when dirty. If you desire for your birds to breed you will require nesting boxes and baskets. These may be obtained at any seedman's or made out of an ordinary chocolate box by nailing down the lid and cutting an entrance in it about 2″ × 2½″, using a piece of wood that

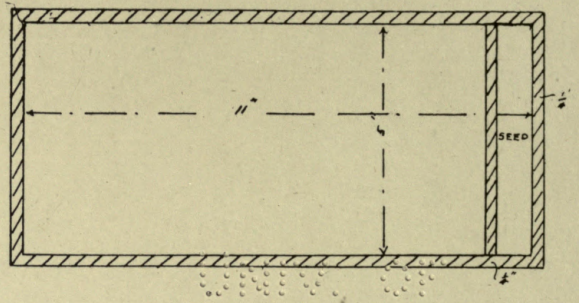


No. 7. Small Finch Show Cage.

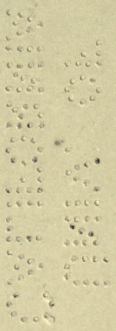
Size. 11" x 9" x 5".



Scale of Inches.



Plan of Small Finch Show Cage.



comes from this hole as a platform for the birds to settle on. I have had them breed in the brushwood if sufficiently thick and material supplied.

Next as to feeding and watering. The best method I have found is by means of first taking a piece of scantling about 2 × 2 and 24″ long, and securing to the one end a piece of board about 6 × 6, in the other end bore a fairly large hole about 2″ deep, or even 2½″, take an old tray and with a 2″ French nail punch a hole in the centre. Screw the piece of 6 × 6 attached to the scantling firmly to the floor, place the tray on the top and pass the punch nail through the hole in the tray, into the one in the upright and you have then complete an absolute mouse-proof table with movable top; set your food hoppers round this, and the greater part of the husk will fall on to the table which can be thrown away when necessary. As to water, you cannot do better than use the ordinary earthenware fountains that are obtainable at any seedman's.

Out-door Aviaries.

The aviaries I have illustrated on another page are to my mind excellent from all points of view. I have tried and seen many but I much prefer these, although they are my own design, for I have met with success with them for keeping, breeding, and moulting, the inmates keeping exceedingly well the whole of the winter, and very rarely have a death.

They are by no means expensive to build, being constructed for the most part of ¾″ match-board and 2″ × 2″

deal. The lobby in the centre is most useful for the keeping of foods, etc., and a sure preventative from losing a bird if the door is bolted on the inner side when entering.

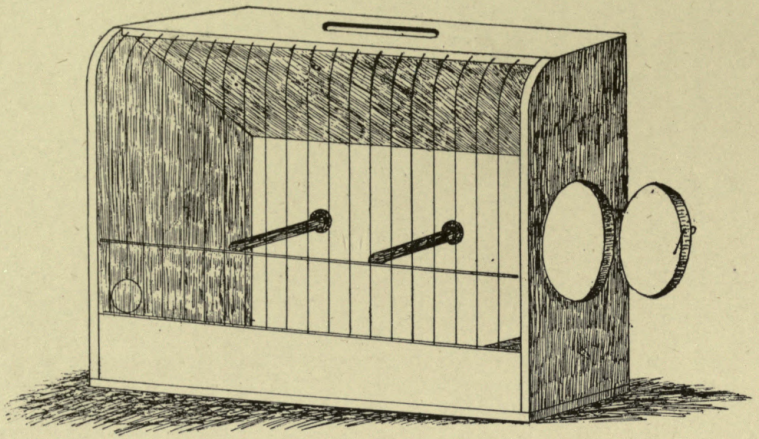
You can adopt exactly the same principle in the case of feeding and watering as described for the indoor aviary, and the same applies to nest boxes, etc. Round the inner part of each aviary secure the necessary perches in rows round the top, but these in this case should be at least a foot apart, running another row alternately below. This will prevent the excreta of those perched above dropping on those below. Fix various perches in the outer flight and place inch wood branches to the depth of about a foot against the wall, the occupants will revel in these and will also often breed there if nesting material is given. Should you only require the one aviary you can abandon the one end, but I advise you to double match-board the outer end for a purpose of keeping the lobby dry.

This aviary adopts itself splendidly for cork ornamentation, and if nicely done is a credit to any owner.

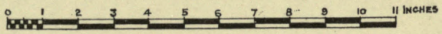
Of course there are plenty of other and more elaborate designs for aviaries, but I do not deem it necessary to go into them here.

Utensils and Bird-room Requisites.

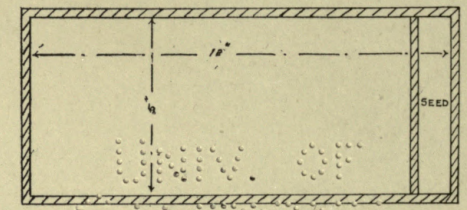
Seed Hoppers. These can be purchased very cheaply or made from cigar boxes, to any required size. The one illustrated in fig. 15 is the design I prefer, the glass being easily movable for cleaning purposes, and you



No. 8. SMALL FINCH SHOW CAGE 12"x10"x5".



SCALE OF INCHES.



PLAN OF SMALL FINCH SHOW CAGE.

are able to see the seed without removing. Some fanciers use perforated zinc for the bottoms to let out any dust that may be in the seed, it is perhaps a good idea if such small seed as maw, niger, summer rape are not being used.

Perches. In fig. 16 are depicted the perches I prefer to use for show cages, they being smarter in every way than the old-fashioned half round or square ones. They are easily fixed by means of a screw through the back of the cage.

Green Food Racks. Fig. 17. These are exceedingly useful in the Summer and Autumn when green food is being provided, they will hang on any cage front, and are the saving of making the cage bottom in a very disordered state.

Drinkers and Feeders. Always use a zinc drinker for your hard bills, as described in fig. 18, they being far in preference to tin and not likely to rust. Black the outside of these with two coats of Japan, $1\frac{1}{2}''$ are suitable for all the smaller Finches, but use $2''$ for Hawfinches, Corn Buntings, etc.

In fig. 19 we have the D-shaped drinker and feeder, which is cast in glass, and is recommended for the show cages of the smaller soft bills.

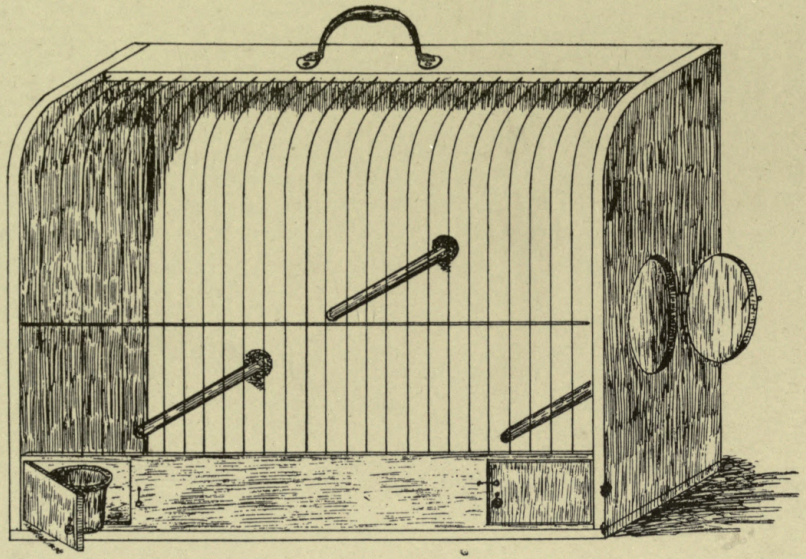
Baths. We have here an important subject, and from the onset I will say I much prefer the arrangement shown in case of the stock cage for the Wagtail in fig.4,

for all birds that will use a bath. When not in use it can be dried out and a little sand or sawdust placed in the bottom. I have used these for three years with great success. Of course if you prefer, you can fall back on the old-fashioned method as shown in fig. 20, but these are, to my mind, very apt to damage the wing and tail feathers of the birds when using them.

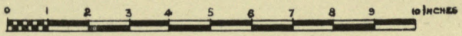
Fig. 21 depicts an excellent little scraper, for the purpose of cleaning out the cages, it can be bought for a few pence at any bird shop.

Fig. 22 is a Spray that has to be often in use during the show season, for a purpose of getting a good bloom on the plumage of your birds. It is advisable to use a little tepid water in preference to cold.

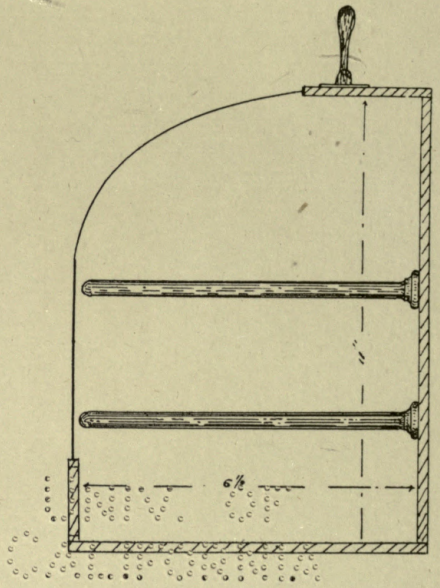
A most useful little Sieve, which may be made at home out of a chocolate box with the bottom and lid knocked off and by tacking some fine perforated zinc on the bottom is shown in fig. 22. It is also useful for squeezing the hard-boiled egg through after the shell has been removed if turned bottom upwards on a plate, by this process you get a very fine texture and ready for mixing with the other food.



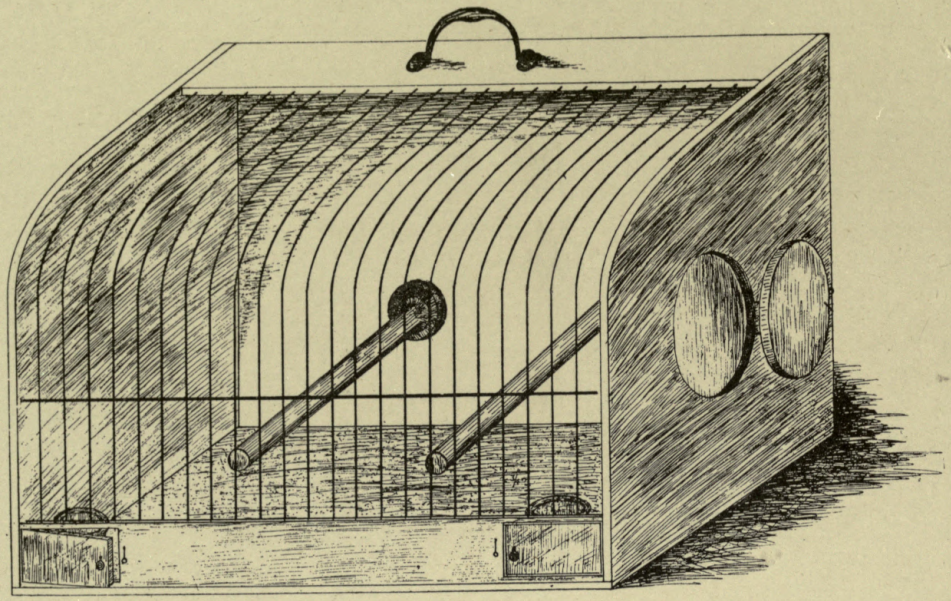
No. 9. WRENS &c CAGE. 14' x 11' x 6½'. BAIZE PERCHES.



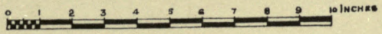
SCALE OF INCHES.



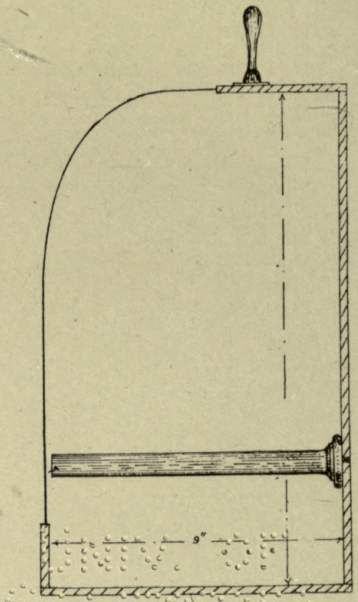
SECTION OF WRENS &c CAGE.



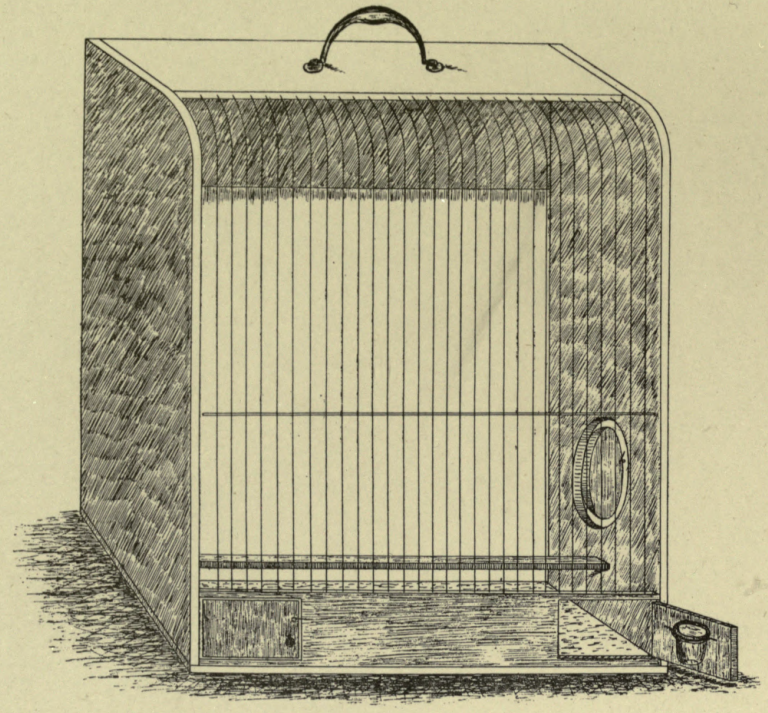
No. 10. LARGE SOFT BILL CAGE. 18" x 15" x 9".



SCALE OF INCHES.

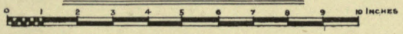


SECTION OF LARGE SOFT BILL CAGE.

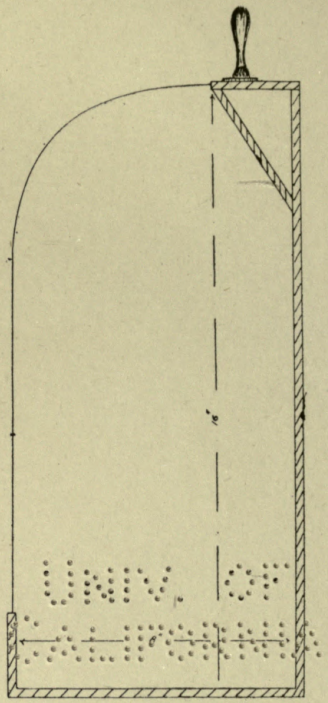


No. 11. TREE CREEPER SHOW CAGE. 13'x16'x8'

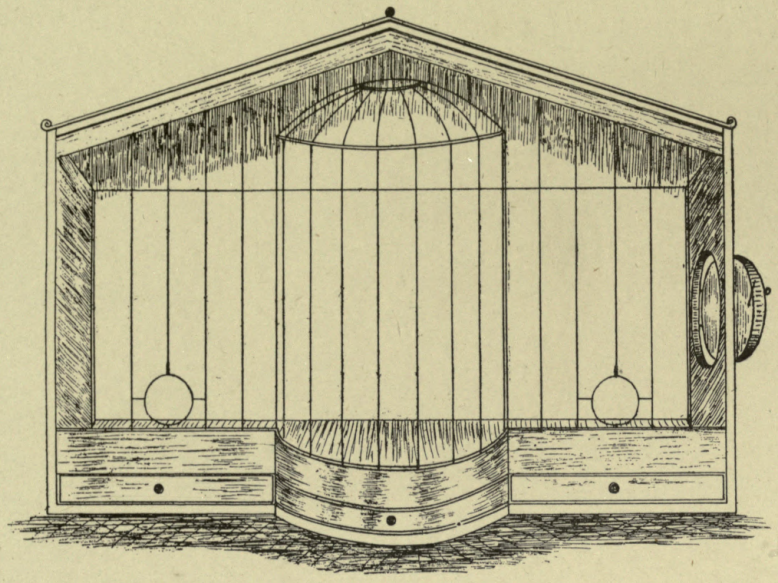
GREEN BAIZE ON PERCH.



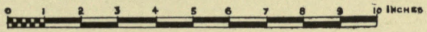
SCALE OF INCHES



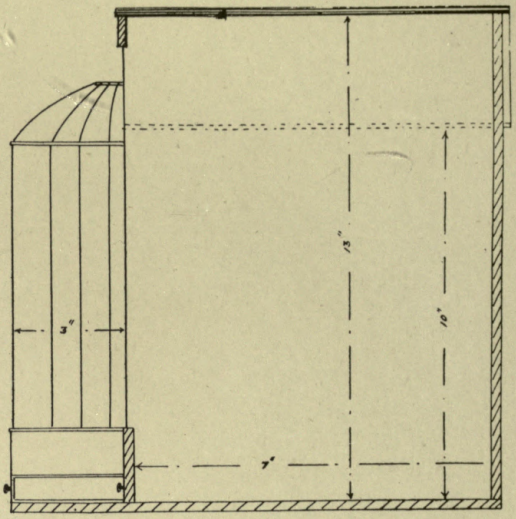
SECTION OF TREE CREEPER SHOW CAGE.



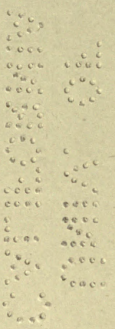
No. 12. Skylark Cage. 18' x 10' x 7'.

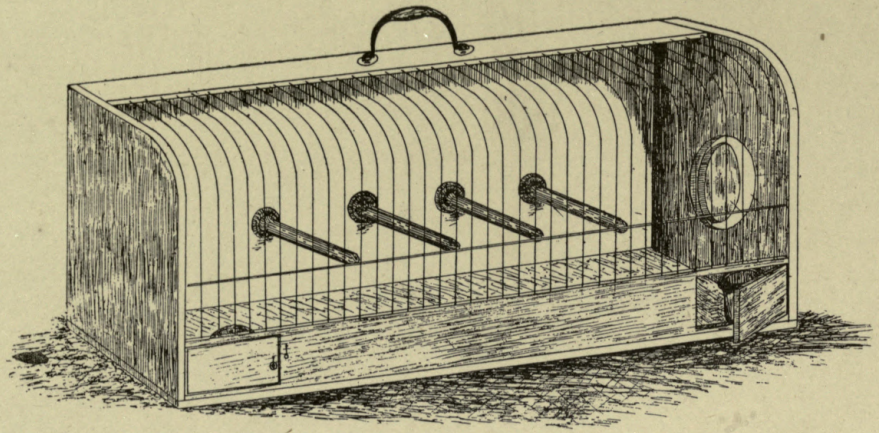


Scale of Inches.

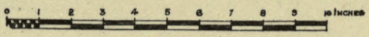


Section of Skylark Cage.

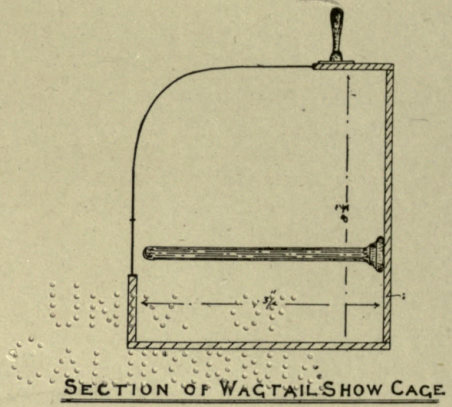




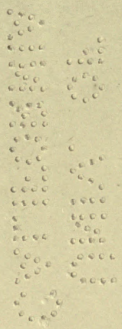
No. 13. WAGTAIL SHOW CAGE. 19" x 8½ x 7¾.



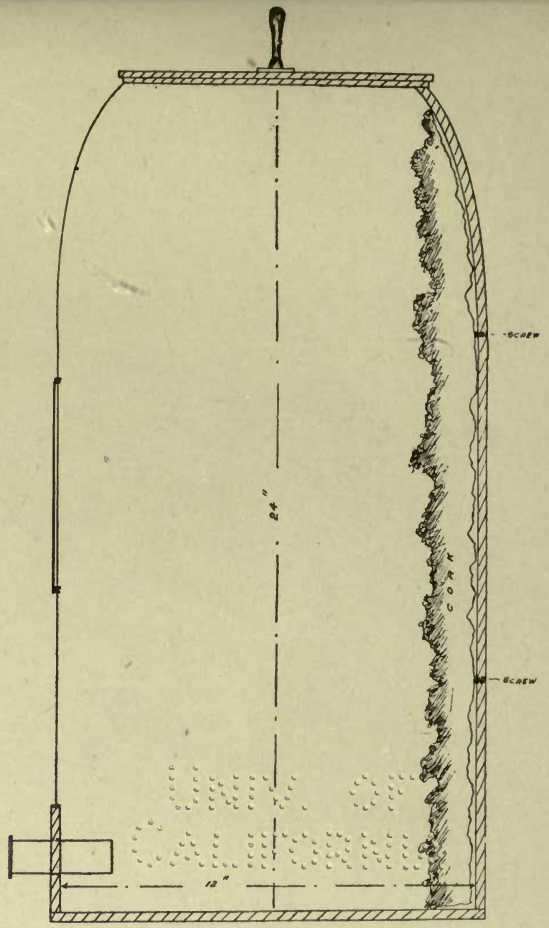
SCALE OF INCHES.



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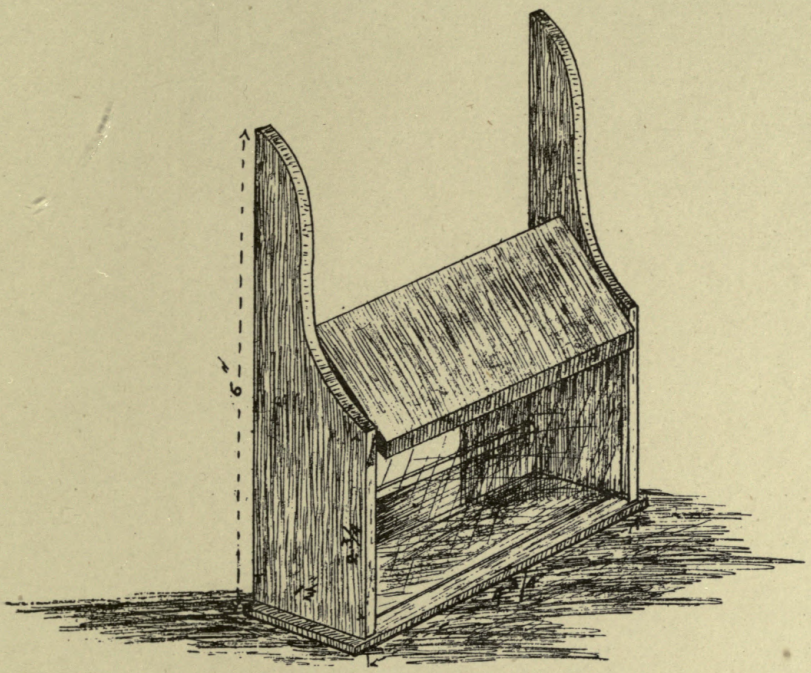
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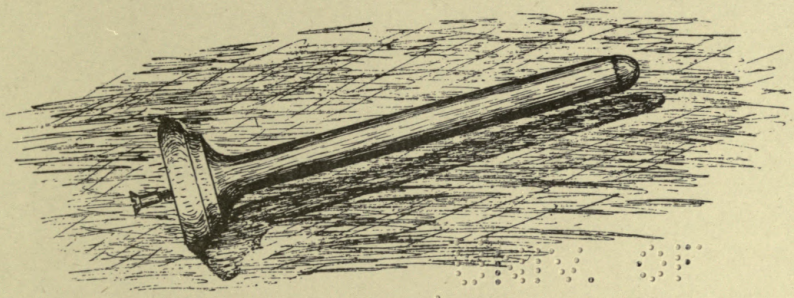


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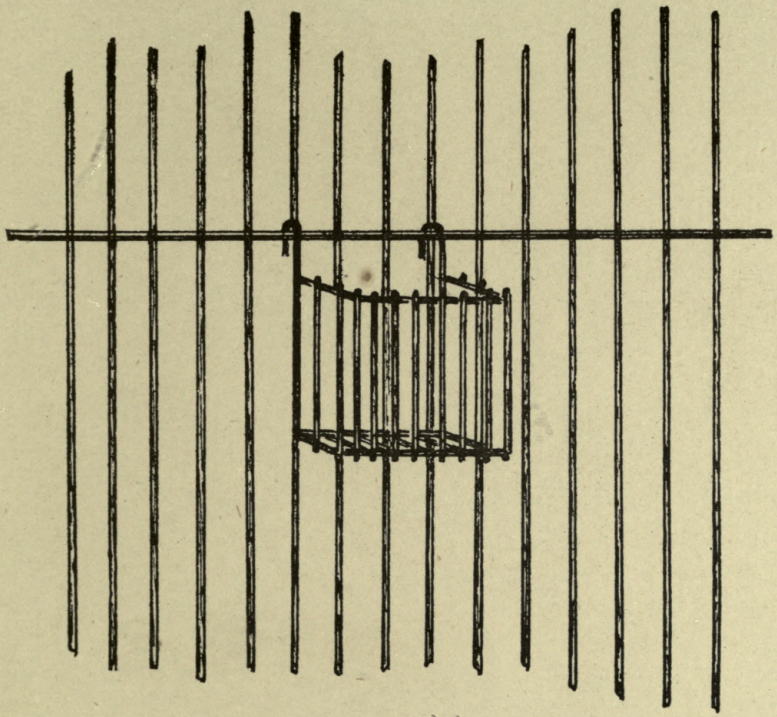
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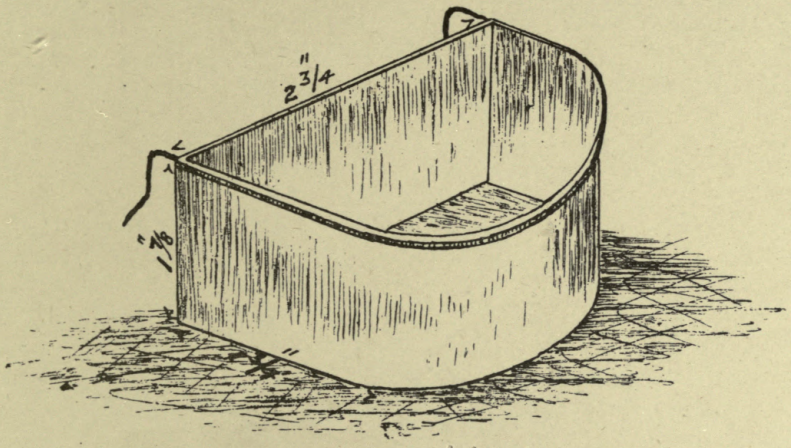
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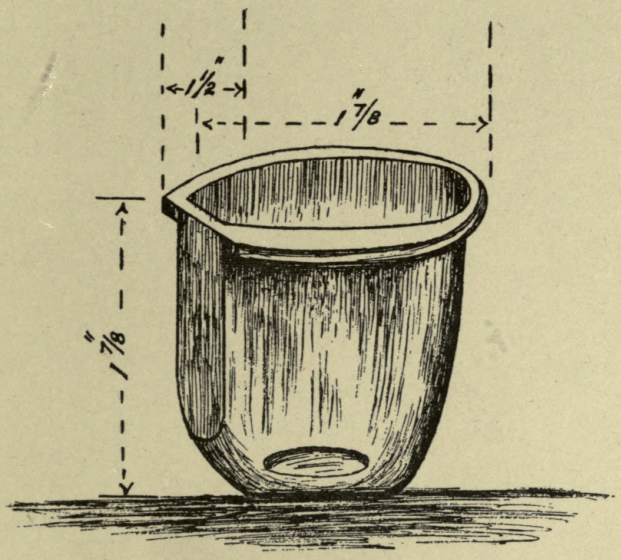
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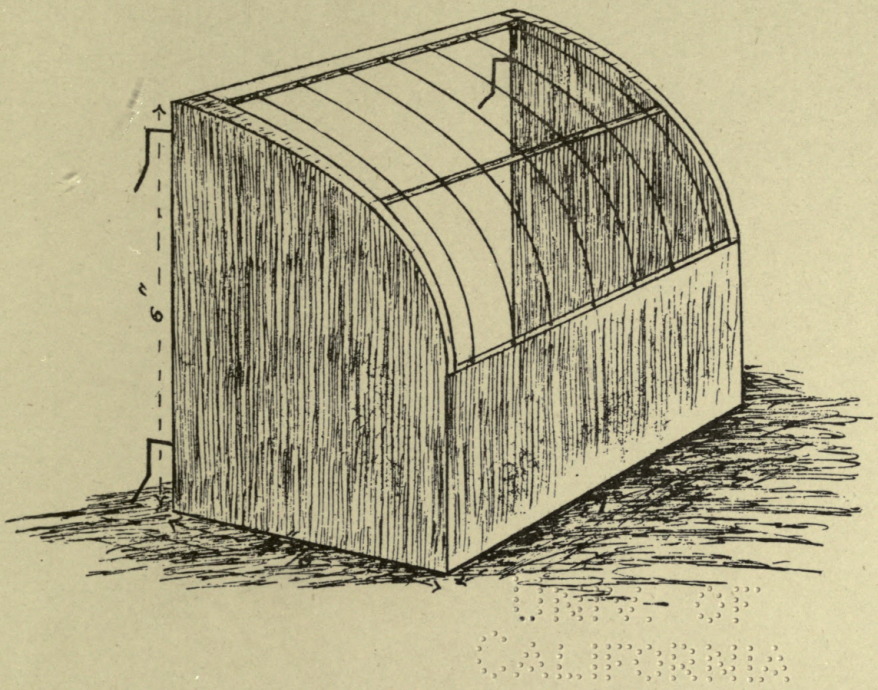
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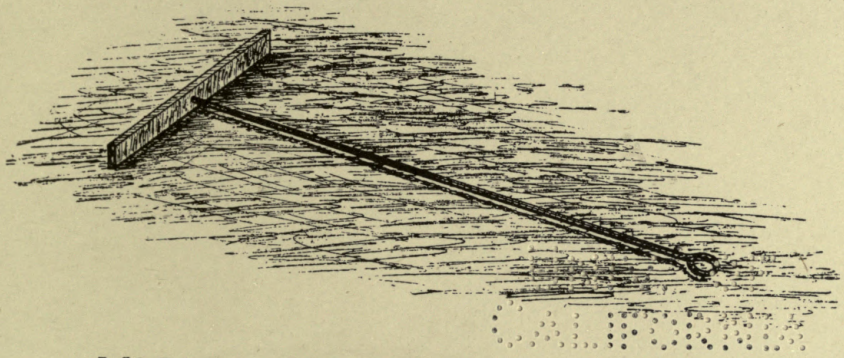
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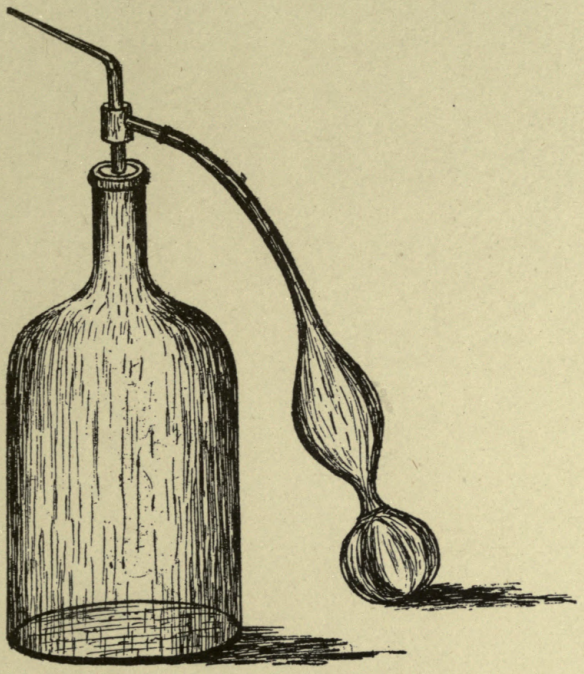


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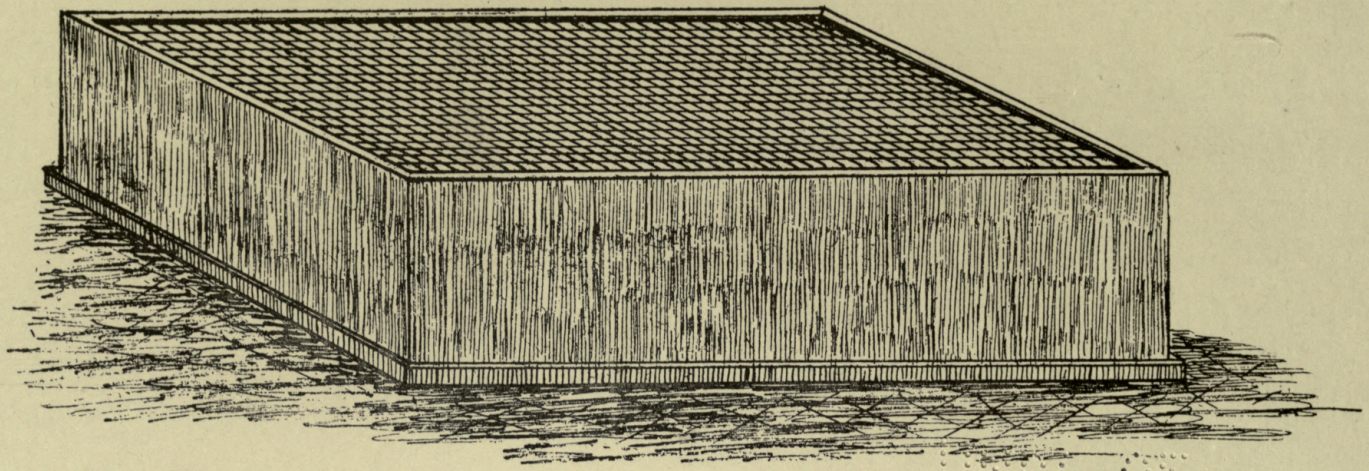
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